



**In this issue :**

- [Message from the President](#)
- [Message from the Newsletter Editor](#)
- [Proud to be Me! Hear me now! – February 25th International Cochlear Implant Day](#)
- [EURO-CIU – Cochlear Implant Users’ position on the EUROPEAN DISABILITY CARD](#)
- [New Living Guidelines for adult hearing care – have your say!](#)
- [World Hearing Day 2023](#)
- [CIICA celebrates International CI Day and its Second Birthday! – CIICA LIVE: Delivering Person Centred CI Services](#)
- [Exciting updates from the MOSAICS project](#)
- [AUSTRIA – Austrian Cochlear Implant Society \(ÖCIG\) – International Cochlear Implant Day](#)
- [SPAIN – AICE – Magical Musical Concert to celebrate Cochlear Implant Anniversary](#)
- [SPAIN – AICE – White Paper about Cochlear Implants in Adults and the Elderly](#)
- [RELATED CONGRESS – UK – BCIG Conference 2023](#)
- [RELATED CONGRESS – 16th European symposium on paediatric cochlear implantation](#)
- [RELATED CONGRESS – HeAL 2024 – Hearing Across the Lifespan](#)
- [WORLD NEWS – International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young People](#)
- [EUROPEAN UNION – EHIMA EU Affairs Update](#)
- [WORLD NEWS – AUSTRIA / KYRGYZSTAN – First trip abroad for Anastasiia – teacher for the deaf – from Kyrgyzstan to Vienna](#)
- [WORLD NEWS – FINLAND – New album from Deafblind musician, Russ Palmer.](#)
- [WORLD NEWS – UK – BCIG – six new MRI resources developed!](#)
- [WORLD NEWS – UK – BCIG – other news](#)
- [WORLD NEWS – UK – Auditory Verbal UK – AVUK celebrates International Cochlear Implant Day](#)
- [WORLD NEWS – UK – Auditory Verbal UK – #HearUsNow](#)
- [WORLD NEWS – UK – Auditory Verbal UK – Achieve Anything Summit](#)
- [WORLD NEWS – USA – ACI Alliance update](#)
- [WORLD NEWS – USA – ACI Alliance Task Force Guidelines Papers win Ear & Hearing Readers’ Choice Award](#)
- [ADVANCED BIONICS – Celebrating 30 Years of Powerful Connections](#)
- [ADVANCED BIONICS – The Gift of Being Heard](#)
- [COCHLEAR – Top tips when choosing your next smartphone](#)
- [COCHLEAR – Hear the difference ForwardFocus makes](#)
- [MED-EL – ideas4ears children’s invention contest – Meet the winners](#)
- [MED-EL – Free music training with Meludia and MED-EL](#)

## Message from the President



Seeing so many countries involved in the celebration of the "International Cochlear Implant Day" and how we are moving forward together working to find measures to prevent hearing loss around the world should makes us proud. It also encourages us to continue in this line to achieve our objectives of visibility of involvement of youth and elderly (as we can see in the videos) finding the complicity of Governments so that health policies take us into account and see that untreated hearing loss is counterproductive not only for the health economy but for the economy in general.

We are also proud to belong to the group that works with the Task Force preparing guides for improvement in the different fields related to cochlear implants, from access to programming, rehabilitation, without forgetting maintenance and updates, apart from connectivity.

That professionals do not give up in their objective of researching and making news and

studies known, and we also bring the articles below in our newsletter to share them with the entire community.

All good news paving the way for moving forward and leaving no one behind because of severe-profound hearing loss.

***Teresa Amat (President)***

[Back to top](#)

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



I hope that you enjoyed International Cochlear Implant Day, and that you used the opportunity to tell people about cochlear implants.

We are continuing to live through difficult times. It's now a year since Russia invaded Ukraine. We have people reading this newsletter from both Russia and Ukraine, so our thoughts are with them at this difficult time. I know that various organisations are sending supplies to Ukraine, particularly through the border with Poland. We also think of our friends in other countries neighbouring Russia and Ukraine, who are also concerned.

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.

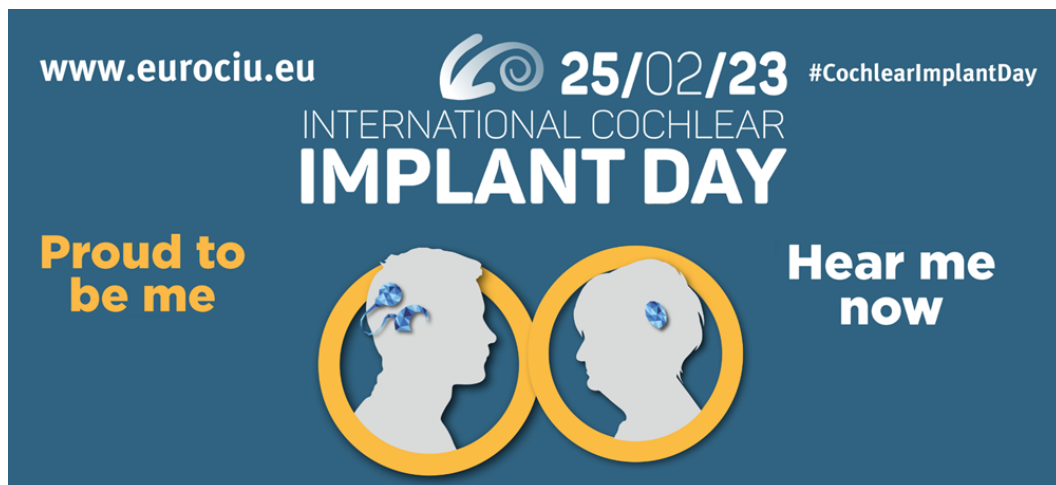
The next edition of the EURO-CIU Newsletter will be due in June, so please let me have your articles (maximum 500 words per article please) and jpg photos by Monday 5 June 2023. Just e-mail them to me at [newsletter@eurociu.eu](mailto:newsletter@eurociu.eu)

With every good wish - and let's hopefully enjoy some Spring weather!

***Brian Archbold (Editor)***

[Back to top](#)

[Proud to be Me! Hear me now! – February 25th International Cochlear](#)



The banner features a dark blue background with white and yellow text. At the top left is the website 'www.eurociu.eu'. In the center, a stylized ear icon is followed by the date '25/02/23' and the hashtag '#CochlearImplantDay'. Below this, the text 'INTERNATIONAL COCHLEAR IMPLANT DAY' is written in large, bold, white letters. On the left, the phrase 'Proud to be me' is written in yellow. On the right, 'Hear me now' is written in white. In the center, two white silhouettes of human heads are shown in profile, facing each other, with a blue cochlear implant symbol on each ear. The silhouettes are enclosed in yellow circles.



/eurociu

International Cochlear Implant Day commemorates the date on which the world's first cochlear implant precursor operation was performed, February 25th, 1957, 66 years ago. Since 2009, this day has been celebrated all over the world, sponsored by our organization.

The Cochlear Implant is for many people an unknown technical aid for hearing, but for many others it has opened up new paths, offering them the possibility of recovering their lost hearing. The EURO-CIU European Association of Cochlear Implant Users carried out awareness-raising events to give visibility with the international mottos:

**Proud to be Me! Hear me now!**

Throughout Europe there are more than 500,000 people who have received cochlear implants, 60% are adults and 40% are minors, at the time of implantation. For more than 25 years, EURO-CIU has been representing the interests of cochlear implant users throughout Continental Europe. Its mission is the truthful dissemination of information about cochlear implants in all areas and the defense of the interests and rights of the group, as well as their families, offering advice and support at any stage of life.

The cochlear implant is an auditory technical aid that requires surgical intervention and is used to restore hearing by transforming sound into electrical energy to stimulate the auditory nerve. Cochlear implants (CI) make it possible for people to hear and understand sounds, even if they have damaged hair cells in the inner ear and have a severe or a profound hearing loss.

**The cochlear implant is the only medical device capable of replacing a sense, a technology that has revolutionized the world of hearing impairment.**

Currently the cochlear implant is covered by public health in most countries, in adults and the elderly unilaterally, without age limits, and in children the implantation sometimes is covered bilaterally (one in each ear). Unfortunately some studies show that only 5.7% of adults and elderly people, possible candidates for a cochlear implants, have access to them.

There is no specific age to be implanted; the cochlear implant contributes to communicative interaction both at an early age and in adults who report that, with its use, isolation and lack of communication caused by hearing loss is avoided. The lack of information, dissemination and adequate referral channels hinder the development and knowledge of this technology, which numerous studies have shown to delay the onset of senile dementia and Alzheimer's. By delaying these diseases, cochlear implantation is

very cost-effective as it could even pay for itself, says some studies, in just 18 months.

As a reference organization, we are trying to increase political advocacy to ensure that cochlear implant users are full citizens in society, as well as eradicating communication barriers in any field, advocating for inclusion of captioning in audiovisual media and speech-to-text in live events.

It is necessary to break the stigma around disabilities, especially invisible ones such as sensory disabilities, and change our way of thinking about hearing devices from something related to “ageing” to something related to “quality of life”.

EURO-CIU encouraged the media, organizations, administrations, educational centres, etc. to schedule outreach activities to commemorate this day and give visibility to the cochlear implant and its users, because we are: **Proud to be Us! Hear Us now!**

**Please click on the following short video clips:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fFwaDmlHKA0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WoRTqUKR23I>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X7uC43oTpAg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mw4tRUYIHwl>

[Back to top](#)

## EURO-CIU – Cochlear Implant Users’ position on the EUROPEAN DISABILITY CARD



**Photos: top left: Identification logo for cochlear implant users; top right: Cochlear**

## ***implant users prohibited; and examples of where they may be sited***

EURO-CIU, the European Association of Cochlear Implant Users, has asked the Commission Work Programme, Conference on the Future of Europe, and the Employment and Social Affairs Commission, to consider the position of Cochlear Implant Users concerning the European Disability Card:

When their devices are turned off, cochlear implant users are profoundly deaf. When the devices are turned on, they still have impaired hearing. Therefore, they must be recognized as persons with disabilities in all countries, allowing them to receive this card and the benefits attached to it.

Cochlear implants provide their users with enough hearing that most do not need to use sign language. Nevertheless, most require at least some additional communication support, for example, lip-reading, induction loop systems, FM streaming, captioning, speech-to-text in events, etc.

Cochlear implants consist of two components, connected by magnets, which function as a system: An implanted part which feeds signals to the cochlea, and an external sound processor which drives the internal part.

It is not recommended for cochlear implant users to be situated in strong magnetic fields or to pass through metal detectors in security checkpoints, because the cochlear implant system contains magnets. Manufacturers' information are shown in the report below.

Some cochlear implant users (depending the models and brands) are completely forbidden to undergo MRI scans. Others may have MRI scans, but only if specific safety protocols are followed, with limited field strength, to avoid injury and damage. In some cases, surgery to remove the magnet may be required before MRI is possible. Technicians must be aware of this. Please see the separate article under World News – UK – BCIG on this subject.

**EURO-CIU asks for the specific cochlear implant logo to be displayed on the rear of the European Disability Card to indicate that the wearer is a cochlear implant user so that:**

**Security personal and MRI technicians know their specific particulars, as well as health and service providers (so they can know about it, accept it, and implement any changes needed).**

**Communication Accessibility like induction loops, FM streaming, captioning, speech-to-text, etc. are made available to cochlear implant users.**

## **SECURITY CHECKPOINTS**

In the section "Metal detectors" of the user manual from cochlear implant manufacturer MED-EL, we can read:

*"Metal detector devices in airports or administrations produce strong magnetic fields. Cochlear implant wearers may perceive a soft sound when approaching these devices. If the processor is turned off, the sound will disappear. However, the implant may activate the sensing device, so it is recommended that you do not pass through such arcs. It is recommended that you have your cochlear implant carrier card handy."*

In "Travel Tips," from Advanced Bionics, we find:

*"You or your children should remove the sound processors, or unplug them, when you are going through airport security systems, and it is better not to pass through them. Always carry the Patient Emergency Identification Document, as well as other explanatory materials, with you at all times to show to airport and security personnel."*

In the information provided by Cochlear, there is a section titled "Metal Detection Systems", where it states that:

*"Cochlear implant recipients should inform security personnel working in airports, administrations on metal detection systems, about the implanted device they are wearing and should ask for a personal check. The Sound Processor must be switched off during this procedure."*

Cochlear's patient identification card explains:

*"This person perceives audibly through a system that has been implanted. The cochlear implant is a titanium electrical device that is worn under the skin in the area behind the ear and is complemented by an external processor (body-worn or behind-the-ear). Without it, the person cannot hear. This card must be presented to security personnel."*

In the "Passing through metal detectors (airports, shopping malls, etc.)" section of Oticon Medical's user manual it states:

*"Going through the metal detector, the functioning of the implant may be disturbed and the alarm may be activated. It is recommended that you turn off the device and present your cochlear implant user card to the security officers. It is not recommended to pass through these detectors".*

On page 21, section "Limitations of the technique" of the document prepared by the AATRM (Medical Technology and Research Assessment Agency), of the Regional government of Catalonia, November 2006: *"Cochlear implants in adults and children: indications, effectiveness, safety and cost"* it says:

*"Caution must be taken at airports to pass outside the customs control arches".*

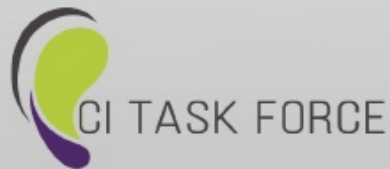
The FDA (Federal Food and Drug Administration) – American Agency for Food and Drug Administration-, says in this regard:

*"May hear strange sounds caused by its interaction with magnetic fields, like those near airport passenger screening machines"*

**Even if there is no scientific evidence, some CI-users have experienced their processor being deprogrammed when passing through security checkpoints. That is why EURO-CIU asks CI-users to avoid them.**

[Back to top](#)

[New Living Guidelines for adult hearing care – have your say!](#)



# IMPROVING THE STANDARD OF CARE FOR ADULTS WITH HEARING LOSS AND THE ROLE OF COCHLEAR IMPLANTATION: LIVING GUIDELINES

DRAFT GUIDELINE FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

CONSULTATION PERIOD 25TH FEBRUARY - 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2023

Hearing health is a recognised public health priority with prevalence of hearing loss rising worldwide.<sup>1</sup> Currently, there is a lack of awareness and inconsistency in diagnosing and managing hearing loss, especially severe to profound sensorineural hearing loss. Guidelines with clearly defined care pathways for adult cochlear implantation would enable consistent and equitable access to hearing healthcare and treatment.

An international collaboration of hearing experts, known as the CI Task Force, are leading the effort to develop Living Guidelines that will optimise care for hearing impaired adults, improve accessibility, and standardise treatment globally.

1. Wilson BS, Tuod DL, Merson MH, O&#39;Donoghue GM : Global hearing health care: new findings and perspectives. Lancet 2017;390(10111):2503-2515.

**TO HAVE YOUR SAY AND PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON THESE DRAFT GUIDELINES [CLICK HERE](#)**

An independent taskforce of 52 hearing experts have released new [Living Guidelines](#) for hearing care.<sup>(1)</sup> The recommendations provide guidelines and guidance for hearing professionals to improve the standard of hearing care for adults.<sup>(2)</sup> One of the nine recommendations states that if an adult has a [hearing number](#)  $\geq 60$  in their better ear\* and difficulties with everyday speech understanding, they should be assessed for a cochlear implant.<sup>(1)</sup>

According to Leo De Raeve, Task Force chair, the guideline is a major step forward in clarifying the best hearing care for adults. Having clear international guidelines for cochlear implantation is an important answer for a growing number of people with hearing loss, which according to the World Health Organization (WHO), is set to reach 2.5 billion by 2050.<sup>(2)</sup>

*"Clinical guidelines are integral in ensuring that healthcare decisions are based on the best available evidence. Before now, there were no international and patient-centred guidelines*



*for hearing care and cochlear implants for adults.”*

Hearing loss has been linked to cognitive decline, depression and a decrease in quality of life (3),(4) and there is a growing body of evidence suggesting an association between hearing loss in older adults and neurocognitive disorders, such as dementia.(5) Additionally, hearing loss can also have an impact on the individuals close to them, including family and friends.(6)

Despite the potential benefits of cochlear implants, less than one in 10 eligible adults will receive one in their lifetime.(9)

The new **Living Guidelines** make 9 recommendations across hearing screening, specialist referral and evaluation, rehabilitation and patient outcomes. The two-year research project looked at more than 14,000 peer-reviewed studies and involved a panel of 52 experts representing 58 organisations, including CIICA, being involved to bring-in the users' view, especially on the topics 'rehabilitation, measuring outcomes and after-care. The aim of the living guidelines is to create a repository of evidence-based guidelines, allowing for the guidance and guidelines to be updated as new evidence is published.

The recommendations are now open for public consultation until 31st May 2023.

**The Task Force warmly welcomes feedback from all members of the global healthcare community.** To have your say, visit the MAGICapp link **HERE** for the full guidelines, recommendation, and technical report, create an account and provide feedback under each recommendation. You can download the recommendations at <https://adultheating.com/living-guidelines/>, and the template for comments at [PublicConsultation-Submission Template](https://adultheating.com/living-guidelines/#/guidelines/6719) and return to [guidelines@htanalysts.com.au](mailto:guidelines@htanalysts.com.au).

#### References

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4. Yueh B, Shapiro N, MacLean CH, Shekelle PG. Screening and Management of Adult Hearing Loss in Primary CareScientific Review. JAMA 2003;289(15):1976-85.
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8. Sorkin DL. Access to cochlear implantation. Cochlear Implants Int 2013 Mar;14 Suppl 1(Suppl 1):S1. doi: 10.1179/1467010013Z.00000000081.
9. Carlson ML. Cochlear Implantation in Adults. The New England journal of medicine 2020;382(16):1531-42.
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\*An adult with any level of hearing loss should be referred for cochlear implant evaluation if they meet the cochlear implant eligibility criteria of three frequency (500, 1000, 2000 Hz) pure-tone average (PTA) in the better ear that is equal to or greater than 60 dBHL (decibels hearing level), AND expresses difficulties with speech understanding in their everyday environment.6 Any adult that meets the above cochlear implant eligibility criteria should be referred to a cochlear implant specialist for a complete cochlear implant evaluation and preoperative assessment.

[Back to top](#)

[World Hearing Day 2023](#)



Our President, Teresa Amat, was a member of the panel at the Virtual Lunch Debate at the European Parliament on Wednesday 1 March, hosted by MEP David Lega (Sweden). The overall subject of the debate was “Ear and hearing care for all! Let’s make it a reality”

**World Hearing Day 2023** highlighted the importance of integrating ear and hearing care within primary care, as an essential component of universal health coverage.

### Key messages

- Ear and hearing problems are among the most common problems encountered in the community.
- Over 60% of these can be identified and addressed at the primary level of care.
- Integration of ear and hearing care into primary care services is possible through training and capacity building at this level.
- Such integration will benefit people and help countries move towards the goal of universal health coverage.

On this day, WHO launched a new training manual – **Primary ear and hearing care training manual**. The manual is accompanied with a trainer’s handbook and other community resources.

### Within this theme, the communication objectives were to:

- Draw attention of decision-makers in governments and civil society groups towards the WHO’s recommendations regarding integration of ear and hearing care into primary health care.
- Encourage governments to integrate primary ear and hearing care into training programmes for health care providers at primary level.
- Call attention of primary level health care providers (health workers and physicians) towards the needs of people with hearing loss and ear disease.
- Inform people about the importance of ear and hearing care and encourage them to seek services.

[Back to top](#)

[CIICA celebrates International CI Day and its Second Birthday! – CIICA LIVE: Delivering Person Centred CI Services](#)



**Photos – Birthday Cake from Aures (Georgia) and Speakers**

CIICA had much to celebrate on International CI DAY and its Second Birthday! With its growing activity and members of the network in 60 countries, CIICA is now an International Not for Profit, founded in Belgium and just before International CI DAY this was signed off by the King of Belgium, and published in the Belgian Royal Gazette.

During our lively CIICA Conversations on the Living Guidelines Project the theme of Person and Family Centred Care in CI services arose as a major issue to be addressed, with people sharing their experiences. Are CI services delivering Person and Family Centred Services? For example, one comment in Conversation:

*"There's going to be differences within countries, but there should be some universalities, one of them should be person-centredness, and L was told she was doing fine and she's saying I don't think I am doing fine. That means something failed and that means the person's voice was not respected and honoured and that should be a common thread, no*

*matter where we live."*

The great presentations in this CIICA LIVE event explored the concept of person and family-centred services , the experiences of users and families and the challenges of delivering such services. How can we work together to ensure this happens?

The Event was chaired by Barbara Kelley, Chief Executive of the Hearing Loss Association of America, and member of the Steering Group of CIICA. Speakers include Kris English, Professor of Audiology, USA, Darja Pajk, CI user and OT, Slovenia, Shari Eberts, HA user and Hearing Health Advocate, USA, Helen Cullington, Professor, CI service, UK, Cristiane Malheiros Pena and Manuela Malheiros Silva, Brazil, Jehan Daboo, India and Robert Mandara, Finland. Beginning with The Doctor knows best? Introduction to Person Centred Care with Kris English, presentations covered Person and Family Centred Care for Adults and their families, the views of families and young people, the challenges of the concept versus the reality, and finally Helen Cullington challenging CI services to deliver.

*"... absolutely a brilliant session and the sharing from each presenter and videos were so inspiring! Best wishes CIICA on your 2nd Anniversary!"*

and from Prof Graeme Clark:

*"CIICA is doing an amazing service to deaf people. It is a shining example to people in all disciplines how important it is to work together in an amicable way. When I think back to those early difficult and formative days, we could not have imagined such progress or CIICA."*

The great captioned presentations are available at [CIICA LIVE: DELIVERING PERSON AND FAMILY CENTRED CI SERVICES – CIICA \(ciicanet.org\)](#) Do have a look at what was considered our best session ever! As Manu's mum Cristiane said, Humanized Care matters!

And visit [LIVING GUIDELINES FOR CI FOR ADULTS – CIICA \(ciicanet.org\)](#) to read the inspiring summaries of the Conversations.

**Note: EURO-CIU is a founding member CIICA**

[Back to top](#)

[Exciting updates from the MOSAICS project](#)



***Photo: The MOSAICS team at the bi-annual MOSAICS Research Days Mechelen, Belgium in October 2022***

***Back row (left to right): Filiep Vanpoucke, Emily Rose Ciscato, Joerg Pesch, Marc van Wanrooij, Ignacio Calderón, Tom Bertens, Enrico Migliorini, John van Opstel***

***Front row (left to right): Andy Beynon, Marco Cavallaro, Loes Beckers, Wendy Huinck, Nikki Philpott, Emmanuel Mylanus, Birgit Philips***

A lot has happened since our last MOSAICS update with EURO-CIU. The first paper of the MOSAICS project was published by **Loes Beckers** in February! The paper is called “Exploring neurocognitive factors and brain activation in adult cochlear implant recipients associated with speech perception outcomes – a scoping review” and was published as part of the research topic “Hearing Loss Rehabilitation and Higher-Order Auditory and Cognitive Processing” in *Frontiers of Neuroscience*. For this paper, the authors (including MOSAICS supervisors **Birgit Philips**, **Emmanuel Mylanus**, **Wendy Huinck** and ESR 3 – **Nikki Philpott**) dived into the literature to gather all studies looking into the relationship between top-down neurocognitive factors and speech perception outcomes with cochlear implants in adults. The main take-away is that more comprehensive studies are needed to better understand this topic. Loes therefore identified some ways in which future research might be improved. Interested to read the paper? You will be able to find the paper [here](#) (open access) and a great video abstract [here](#). Feel free to reach out to the MOSAICS team with any questions about this study!

**Ignacio Calderón** has been analyzing reaction time data from cochlear implant recipients in his experiments, aimed at investigating auditory nerve conditions. It is fascinating to observe that even small changes in the stimulus can significantly affect their response time. These variations in reaction times could potentially provide insight into how the auditory nerve responds to electric signals from the cochlear implant. He is currently considering expanding the experiments to assess the actual impact of auditory nerve conditions on sound perception and hopes that this will provide valuable information that can aid in the fitting of devices and enable recipients to get the most from their implants.

The AuDiET clinical study, involving **Enrico Migliorini** and **Nikki Philpott (Tromp)**, is still ongoing and collecting data. A lot of effort has been directed towards making the data

collection as reliable and effective as possible: the whole team is committed to laying a strong foundation for evidence-based fitting and rehabilitation, and we look forward to presenting our results later this year. A suite of various tools has been developed for this study, which may provide assistance to audiologists who wish to understand the difficulties that their cochlear implant recipients are facing in greater detail, and provide them the opportunity to try and address these with a combination of interventions in the clinical and home environment.

Overall, it really feels that we have been picking up a great deal of momentum in MOSAICS and our projects are moving at full speed! After our last MOSAICS catch-up in Mechelen in October 2022, we are really looking forward to all being together and sharing our learnings at some conferences coming up later this year, including **ESPCI** and **CIAP**.

[Back to top](#)

## AUSTRIA – Austrian Cochlear Implant Society (ÖCIG) – International Cochlear Implant Day



On Saturday 25 February, an open day was held at the Medical Self-Help Centre at Obere Augartenstraße 26-28 to mark International Cochlear Implant Day. The event was hosted by the Austrian Cochlear Implant Society (ÖCIG) and attracted a total of 40 visitors.

The three leading cochlear implant manufacturers provided visitors with extensive information material. A Cochlear representative was also on hand to answer questions.

Visitors also had the opportunity to talk to cochlear implant users and share their experiences. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., visitors were able to find out more about cochlear implants and keep up to date with the latest developments in the industry.

The Medical Self-Help Centre provided the perfect setting for the event. It is an important meeting place for people with different health challenges who want to support each other and exchange ideas. The centre also offers a variety of support groups, counselling and information services.

Visitors were enthusiastic about the event and commented positively on the opportunity to talk to cochlear implant users and receive comprehensive information. The event demonstrated the importance of supporting people with hearing loss and raising awareness about cochlear implants.

Overall, the International Cochlear Implant Day Open House was a great success. The

Austrian Cochlear Implant Society (ÖCIG) would like to thank the organisers of the event and the supporters of the Medical Self-Help Centre for their help in making it possible. We hope that such events will be held more often in the future to promote the exchange of information and to help those affected.

**Tobias Fischer**

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Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/oecig\\_at/](https://www.instagram.com/oecig_at/)

[Back to top](#)

## [SPAIN – AICE – Magical Musical Concert to celebrate Cochlear Implant Anniversary](#)



Once upon a time, Mara, a beautiful baby girl was born profoundly deaf by cytomegalovirus in a really musical family. Her parents were professional piano and viola players and music professors; her brother a trombone student. She was cochlear implanted at 9 months old and one year later her family and friends wanted to celebrate

her new “ears” with a concert.

This past January, the Iturbi Conservatory of Music hall was full with cochlear implant users, politicians, doctors and music lovers enjoying the “ode” to melody done by nearly 30 musicians, composers and singers, colleagues from the “Cuarteto de Cuerda Valencia” (Valencia String Quartet) and “Simant Duo”, the groups that Mara’s parents lead.

Two TV presenters hosted the ceremony that mixed instrumental, song compositions and opera tracks with speeches about deafness, hearing loss and cochlear implants by Joan Zamora, Federación AICE President; and stories by persons like Noah Higón, writer, political analyst and a cochlear implant user herself. The night was accessible to communication with live speech to text for all public, who may or may not need it, but understood it was possible to do it.

And even if that was the end of the magical day, it was not the end of the story, because the Collection during the occasion was donated to Federación AICE to keep defending cochlear implant users’ rights and fighting to break down the communication barriers in all areas, even in music ones.

[Back to top](#)

## SPAIN – AICE – White Paper about Cochlear Implants in Adults and the Elderly



This document, prepared by medical specialists from the Spanish Society of Otorhinolaryngology and Head and Neck Surgery (SEORL-CCC), independent experts, Federación AICE and the GAES Scientific Committee (cochlear implant distributor), aims to offer the most documented and rigorous vision possible about the current situation in relation to cochlear implantation in Spain. Among other issues, the white paper addresses the situation of hearing loss in the country and the importance of its correct approach, makes a description of cochlear implants and analyses the benefits that these bring to deaf people and their families. Finally, it also analyses the incidence of this pathology in the health system and the advantages of early detection and treatment.

Part of this analysis is done by EURO-CIU scientific advisor Prof. Dr. Leo de Raeve and Joan Zamora, Federación AICE President.

“Adults come to cochlear implants after a painful, frustrating process, loss of self-confidence and social isolation due to lack of hearing, as well as difficulties finding a job. It is a treatment that gives new hope and perspectives both to deaf patients and their



families”, says Joan Zamora, Federation of Associations of Cochlear Implant Users in Spain President (Federación AICE).

Some of the statements from the White Paper:

- Less than 10% of potential adult candidates for a cochlear implant become aware of it, and only 5.7% actually undergo surgery.
- A problem for adults to get a cochlear implant is the lack of information on potential candidates and their families, but this is also caused by the lack of information and knowledge of the professionals who inform them, such as family doctors and some otolaryngologists.
- The lack of accurate information, the "fake news" about the subsequent cost of maintenance, the necessary rehabilitation or how one hears with a cochlear implant, the fears and stigma of hearing aids are factors that delay or prevent cochlear implantation in Adults.
- There are no official data on hearing loss in Spain, only some estimates, much less on cochlear implants and the only source, to which everyone refers, are those from the Federation AICE's database.
- The cost in Spain of untreated hearing losses is 16,300 million euros per year. There are studies that show that every euro invested in hearing aids returns 30 euros to society.
- The cochlear implant delays the onset of senile dementia and Alzheimer's, and some studies confirm is amortized only by postponing the onset of these diseases for 18 months.

It is estimated that the approximate number of people with cochlear implants worldwide is one million, in Europe around 500,000 and in Spain around 22,000.

The White Paper must be a tool to open the eyes of the health political representatives about the cochlear implantation need and cost-effectiveness in adults and the elderly.

[Back to top](#)

## [RELATED CONGRESS – UK – BCIG Conference 2023](#)



### **CURRENT CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN CI**

Thursday 13th and Friday 14th April 2023

We are delighted to announce the dates and venues for the forthcoming 2023 annual BCIG meeting taking place in Cambridge, a city renowned for its universities and historic architecture. Registration closes on Monday 3 April. Full details of the programme can be found on the [meeting website](#).

Highlights include the Graham Fraser Memorial Lecture given by Dr Julie Arenberg from United States of America and keynote presentations on **Cognition and Cochlear implants** and **Implanting outside the UK Criteria**.

A range of accommodation options is available on the [website](#).

## HOSTS

Cambridge Cochlear Implant Consortium

## KEY TOPICS

- Audiological
- Paediatric rehabilitation
- Adult rehabilitation
- Surgical/medical
- Basic/translational science

## VENUES

- Conference – West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge
- Gala dinner – Queens College, Cambridge

## CI CHAMPIONS WORKSHOP

We look forward to welcoming the champions to our event once again. The workshop will take place on day one of the conference but we very much hope you are able to join us for both days. More details to follow.

## TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST, PLEASE CONTACT:

[academia.bbmuk@bbraun.com](mailto:academia.bbmuk@bbraun.com)

+44 (0)114 225 9196

[www.aesculap-academia.co.uk](http://www.aesculap-academia.co.uk)

[bcig2023.exordo.com](http://bcig2023.exordo.com)

[Please click here for the poster](#)

[Back to top](#)

[RELATED CONGRESS – 16th European symposium on paediatric cochlear implantation](#)



Green is the colour of our conference. Not only because it makes up two thirds of the Rotterdam flag, but mainly because we want this to be the greenest and most sustainable conference in hearing to date. The ESPCI is the largest conference on cochlear implants for children, but that also means it has a huge impact on the environment. The large

number of international professionals flying to the conference emit an extraordinary amount of CO2 into our atmosphere. We, as the executive committee of ESPCI 2023, recognize the burden imposed on our environment and are proud to take the first steps towards a more sustainable conference.

We actively promote public transportation and ask you to make use of our Eurostar and Thalys discount offer. We also offer free use of public transportation with the Rotterdam Welcome Card and compensate CO2 through tree planting.

Registration for the conference is now open – [please click on this link](#).

If you would like to have a look at the themes of the conference and the draft programme to date, [please click here](#).

[Back to top](#)

## RELATED CONGRESS – HeAL 2024 – Hearing Across the Lifespan



The next international [HeAL 2024 conference](#) (live) will be held from 6 to 8 June 2024 at our historic venue, the gorgeous Villa Erba Conference Center, on Lake Como in Cernobbio. This peaceful, elegant, cosy and little frequented town with all its charm will once again host our meeting.

HEAL meetings, a.k.a. the Como Conferences, have closely monitored – and contributed to – the progress of modern Audiology and Hearing Science, also influencing the development of clinical studies and practical protocols. HEAL meetings bring together experts from across disciplines and offer delegates a unique opportunity to discuss their latest research in a truly international forum.

The Scientific Program is usually composed of several parallel sessions and enriched by Satellite Events dedicated to a great variety of topical issues as well as Special Sessions and Mini-Symposia proposed and coordinated by many Organizations and Institutions active in the wide area of hearing research and hearing care.

As an example, the last HEAL 2022 Scientific Program included two mini-symposia, four special sessions and various lectures and approximately 330 Communications with Delegates representing about 45 countries from around the world.

Topics that will be addressed at HEAL2024 include, but are not limited to:

- Speech perception
- Speech-in-noise testing
- Self-administered hearing tests
- Epidemiology
- Genetic issues
- Early identification – novel techniques and methods
- Auditory Processing Disorders
- Speech and language development
- Listening effort
- Cognitive decline
- Quality of life and hearing loss
- Computational Audiology

- e- and m-health solutions
- Auditory modelling
- Auditory Neuroscience
- Artificial Intelligence applications
- Data-driven hearing models
- Effects of occupational and recreational noise
- Tinnitus
- Amplification – technologies and strategies
- Implantable devices
- Auditory training
- Improving Hearing Care and Services
- Remote Care Solutions
- Intervention and Rehabilitation: strategies and methods.

**Save-the-date. Come and join us for another exciting conference in Cernobbio in 2024!**

***Ferdi Grandori (Chair)***

***National Research Council of Italy – CNR-IEIT – Institute of Electronics, Information Engineering and Telecommunications, Milan Unit based at the Dept. of Electronics, Information and Bioengineering, Polytechnic of Milan, Italy***

**Scientific Committee**

Sophia E. Kramer, PhD at the Amsterdam UMC – location VU University Medical Center in Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Alessia Paglialonga, PhD National Research Council of Italy – CNR-IEIT – Institute of Electronics, Information Engineering and Telecommunications, Milan Unit based at the Dept. of Electronics, Information and Bioengineering, Polytechnic of Milan, Italy

[Back to top](#)

**WORLD NEWS – International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young People**



**IFHOHYP**  
**International Federation of  
 Hard of Hearing Young People**

World Hearing Day is held on 3 March each year to raise awareness on how to prevent deafness and hearing loss and promote ear and hearing care across the world. At its headquarters in Geneva, WHO organizes an annual World Hearing Day event. International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young People (IFHOHYP) joins this global initiative to celebrate the date in 2023.

The Accessibility committee of IFHOHYP prepared the virtual exhibition "More than HOH or DEAF" for this day. Conception is: hearing or non-hearing criteria should not be used as the sole criterion for defining us as beings. We are HOH or deaf, but also citizens, relatives, workers, students, etc.

The Accessibility committee of IFHOHYP invited HOH / deaf people from African, Asian, Arabic and Latin American regions of the world to submit some information about themselves to inspire each other. The Result is the virtual gallery with portraits and inspiring statements that we are more than just HOH but human being with abilities, responsibilities and dreams.

[Click on this link](#) to go to our virtual exhibit, and then use the side arrows to advance the slides, or use the arrow at the bottom of the screen to advance the slides automatically. When you open the exhibition at first, you may need to wait a short time before starting to move through the different slides to view the exhibition.

***Bowen Tang***

***President***

***International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young People***

Website: <http://www.ifhohyp.org>

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ifhohyp](http://www.facebook.com/ifhohyp)

Twitter/Instagram: [@IFHOHYP](#) and [@IFHOHYP](#)

[Back to top](#)

[EUROPEAN UNION – EHIMA EU Affairs Update](#)

# e h i m a



## Highlights of the month:

The European Parliament adopted the emergency extensions to the MDR, extending the transition period for re-certification of medical devices to 2028 (and 2027 for certain high-risk devices). Treated as a priority by the Council, the bill is likely to be signed off in mid-March. If that is the case, it will enter into force in late April to early May.

Simultaneously, the European Parliament presented its draft position on the European Health Data Space, which cements the industry's ability to access data to boost innovation in the European health sector. The European Commission has also launched a consultation on the EU Disability Card and designated a consortium of NGOs to run the Accessible EU centre.

[Back to top](#)

[WORLD NEWS – AUSTRIA / KYRGYZSTAN – First trip abroad for](#)

## Anastasiia – teacher for the deaf – from Kyrgyzstan to Vienna



### Photos of Anastasiia's visit to Austria

"When the plane slowly approached Vienna, I couldn't believe it," says Anastasiia with bright eyes and full of expectations. It is the first trip out of the country for the 27-year-old therapist. She has an invitation from the Lehnhardt Foundation for an internship for a week and she has many questions in her luggage.

How is the treatment of hearing impaired and deaf children organized in Europe, specifically in Austria? Is there a nationwide neonatal hearing screening? What about early intervention? Are hearing impaired children entitled to get a hearing aid or maybe even two? When they are diagnosed as deaf, do they get a cochlear implant or even two? What about post-operative care, technical support and rehabilitation? Who pays for all this?

In her home country, the situation for hearing-impaired children is by no means satisfactory. In most cases, hearing impairment is recognized far too late. It is the parents who often only notice with irritation after two or three years that their child does not react to acoustic stimuli and does not start to speak. They are then often put off by paediatricians, they have to be patient, it will all work out.

The neonatal hearing screening has been in the pilot phase for a year through a project of the Lehnhardt Foundation with GIZ and also through an initiative of UNICEF.

Neither the government nor insurance companies pay for hearing aids, cochlear implants or rehabilitation. The result are long waiting lists for donors like the Ministry for Religious Affairs from Qatar, the German organization "Ein herz für Kinder", the Turkish TIKa project and some private sponsors.

Anastasiia learnt that Neonatal Hearing Screening has been mandatory in Austria for decades.

At the University Clinic in St. Pölten she could familiarize herself with the organization of the CI program by a multidisciplinary team: criteria for patient selection (including single sided deafness), freedom for parents to select the CI from one of the three current manufacturers, 6 – 7 fitting sessions during the first two post-operative years and rehabilitation including music therapy.

In Vienna, Anastasiia spent a day with Ulrike Rüllicke, a very experienced audio therapist who applies the natural auditory oral approach working with children and adults. Her institution is called "dazugehören" – which translates into "to belong" but the German word

includes “hören” and has a semantic meaning. Ulrike’s focus is on counselling parents, supporting them to understand what is essential for the development of their child at a given time and to foster interaction. She very rarely uses the word “no” and emphasizes that “Language only arises when I exchange information and enter into a dialogue.”

In Vienna, Anastasiia also visited VOX (Center for hearing impaired) and ÖCIG (Austrian Cochlear Implant Society).

VOX offers technical support for hearing aids and cochlear implants, counselling people for situations in daily life, in their job or during their studies. They cooperate with therapists, clinics and other organisations. One of their aims is to change the legal situation and to introduce stationary rehabilitation following the German example, where CI recipients can spend 12 weeks in a specialized CI rehabilitation centre paid for by the insurance companies.

ÖCIG has been in existence for 30 years, members counsel children and adults, help to prepare documents for insurance companies and recently focus on two projects: “Listen up!” (a campaign to increase awareness for hearing impairment) and “Easy Rehabilitation” (development of a concept for stationary rehabilitation).

On her last day in Vienna, Anastasiia met Dr. Monika Lehnhardt-Gorjany and her husband Michael.

One of the main topics was Telemedicine, internal documentation and work structure.

The internship helped Anastasiia to get new ideas, to better understand the organisation of post-operative rehabilitation and the cooperation between therapists and clinics.

*“I now look at my work from a different angle and I want to apply and adapt many techniques to local circumstances in Kyrgyzstan, understanding the purpose of new and old tasks.”* says Anastasiia before she has to leave.

[Back to top](#)

[WORLD NEWS – FINLAND – New album from Deafblind musician, Russ Palmer.](#)



*(Photo: Juha Sarkkola & Russ Palmer)*



Russ Palmer, a deafblind musician and music therapist, who uses two cochlear implants, has released his third album, *Loving Touch*. It's an enchanting collection of instrumental pieces, written and recorded with Finnish musician and interpreter, Juha Sarkkola.

The album's four transcendent tracks take you on a journey of discovery, from loss and remembrance to outer space. *A Loving Touch*, *Song for Lost Friends*, *End of the Day*, and *Voyager* have been written to reflect emotional experiences of the past year. When describing *A Loving Touch*, Russ and Juha explain that after the nationwide lockdowns, the title track 'echoes the keenly felt loss of touch for a deafblind person who relies on it for life.'

When interviewed, Russ said of the new album, "*This was written over several years and throughout the pandemic. Juha and I created it to express different emotions by varying guitar techniques and textures.*" As the title of track number three alludes, the album is perfect for unwinding at the end of a day.

Juha added, "*The blend of the 6-string and 12-string guitars provides an incredible combination of tones and layers to the music.*"

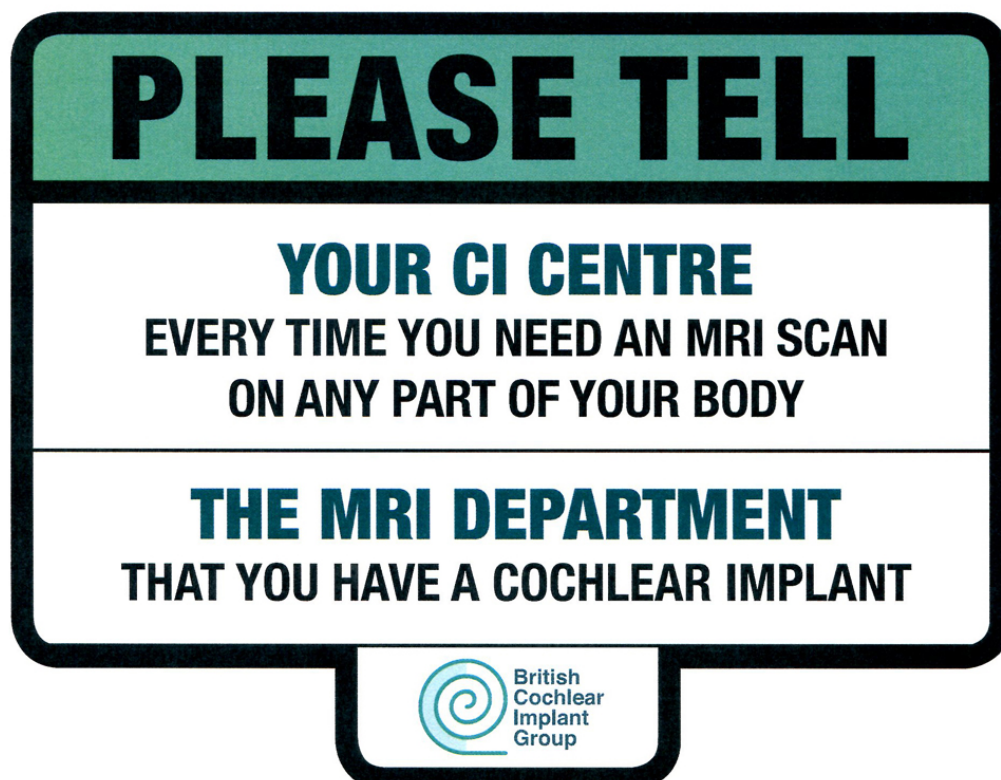
Russ Palmer is deaf and blind and his previous albums were *Reflections* and *Warm Summer Days*. Not only is Russ an accomplished songwriter, guitarist, and concert-level pianist, he is quite possibly the only deafblind music therapist in the world. Despite being born deaf, Russ' unique relationship with music is incredible, and his collaboration and friendship with Juha Sarkkola shines through on this new album.

Longtime fan, Marjatta, says, "*In each song you have wonderfully captured the mood. We lose friends, but beautiful memories remain. This is going to be my new relaxation music.*"

Further details at: [www.russpalmer.com](http://www.russpalmer.com)

[Back to top](#)

[WORLD NEWS – UK – BCIG – six new MRI resources developed!](#)



The BCIG Special Interest Group looking into MRI scans for people using CIs has published six new resources. These include online training and information for radiologists, information for patients and a questionnaire to discover further areas that may need exploring. The titles are:

- [Online training for radiologists](#)
- [Patient information leaflet](#)
- [Magnet displacement protocol](#)
- [Protocol writing guidance](#)
- [Magnetic fields and heating guidance](#)
- [‘How was your MRI?’ questionnaire](#)

They are all available on the [BCIG website](#). In addition, BSL video interpretations have been made of the Patient Information Leaflet and of the questionnaire. The Patient Information Sheet has been awarded a Crystal Mark by the Plain English Campaign and IPEM, (the Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine) has added their stamp of approval, too. Special thanks to Helen Cullington and the team for their hard work!

A sticker and card will also be launched soon – every CI user needs one of these!

[Back to top](#)

[WORLD NEWS – UK – BCIG – other news](#)



**British  
Cochlear  
Implant  
Group**

### **SIG for skin health**

Following on from the BCIG work in other areas, a special group has been set up to produce a clear guidance sheet for patients/carers/family members on how to look after the skin under their magnet, and what to do if there are problems.

We already have a tissue viability nurse involved, who is experienced in helping patients to self-care for their skin and wounds.

This project has real potential to prevent unnecessary issues and to limit time without hearing. This is really worthwhile and protects patients and NHS resources.

The results will be available on the [BCIG website](#) – and look out for the new look website, to be launched soon!

**A reminder.....**

BCIG is reminding everyone that Audiologists (NHS and private), ENT specialists, General Practitioners, and other specialties may all refer patients for CI assessment.

Please see here for [NICE candidacy guidance](#) in the UK.

[Back to top](#)

[WORLD NEWS – UK – Auditory Verbal UK – AVUK celebrates International Cochlear Implant Day](#)



International Cochlear Implant Day was a brilliant opportunity to celebrate the achievements of children with cochlear implants. At Auditory Verbal UK we shared [Lola's Hearing Journey](#). Lola attended AVUK's specialist family-centred programme as a baby and graduated with listening and spoken language skills ahead of her hearing peers. Lola

is now five, at mainstream school, speaks French and English and is learning Spanish. To celebrate International Cochlear Implant Day, she wowed listeners to a local radio station singing in French demonstrating the impact cochlear implants and Auditory Verbal therapy have had.

More details about our Auditory Verbal therapy family programme are [here](#) and the range of [training options](#) available for professionals working with deaf children.

[Back to top](#)

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



This year's World Hearing Day also marks a year since Auditory Verbal UK launched the [#HearUsNow](#) campaign urging Government to support and invest in Auditory Verbal therapy so more deaf children have the opportunity to access it.

Nine-year-old Orson Grimer and his Mum Avril have written to UK Government Health

Minister, Steven Barclay MP, asking for an urgent meeting to discuss how we can enable all families who want their child to learn to listen and talk, to be able to access Auditory Verbal therapy through public funded services. Orson was born prematurely and diagnosed with hearing loss in both ears at his newborn hearing screening. He attended Auditory Verbal UK's specialist family-centred programme for two years before graduating with language skills ahead of his hearing peers. His story shows that with hearing technology, including cochlear implants and hearing aids, deaf children can have the same opportunities in life as their hearing peers.

Orson and Avril are urging more people to support the [#HearUsNow](#) campaign and [sign their letter](#) to the Minister.

[Back to top](#)

[WORLD NEWS – UK – Auditory Verbal UK – Achieve Anything Summit](#)



AVUK is delighted to see that AVUK graduate Ava Pearson has been chosen as one of the

National Ambassadors for Cochlear Foundation's Achieve Anything: Global Summit. Ava was born with a profound hearing loss and received cochlear implants at nine and 14 months old. Ava was supported to maximise her implants and learnt to listen and speak on our specialist family-centred programme. She communicates proudly about the need for all deaf children to be given the same opportunities in life as their hearing peers and shared her story with Members of Parliament and the House of Commons last year.

Ava's inspiring story is an example of exceeding expectations, overcoming barriers and inspiring other children and young people with hearing loss. She will be joining other young people in London in May for the Achieve Anything: Global Summit where she will help advocate and raise awareness for better access to hearing healthcare and support for millions of children around the world.

[Back to top](#)

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



AMERICAN COCHLEAR IMPLANT ALLIANCE

*Research. Advocacy. Awareness.*

### **World Hearing Day**

ACI Alliance distributed resources that support integrating hearing healthcare into primary care. [Visit our website for shareable infographics](#) and links to three papers published in Ear & Hearing that provide clarity on candidacy determination for adults (bilateral deafness and SSD) and children (bilateral deafness and SSD).

### **Mentorship Lunches During CI2023**

We invite all students, fellows, and residents in attendance at CI2023 to meet during lunch Thursday, June 8th at CI2023 Dallas. Discussion will begin with a panel discussion and

open conversation on next steps of your career goals. This will be a great way to meet other students and learn from those who recently walked in your footsteps. Gain tips on the interview process and how to put your best self forward in the most positive manner. Register here: <https://www.acialliance.org/event/studentlunchci2023>

The other program we will introduce is for our members with hearing loss at lunch on Friday June 9. Join your peers with hearing loss that also work in the hearing loss field to share experiences. <https://www.acialliance.org/event/MembersHearingLoss>

### **Tuesday Talks | Upcoming and Past**

On 21 March 2023, the Tuesday Talk webinar was on "What Happens During a CI Evaluation for a Child?".

Tuesday Talks are a free, captioned webinar series hosted by ACI Alliance monthly at 12 Noon ET. The content is designed for adults, parents, and others seeking information on cochlear implantation and related topics. Speakers are experienced CI clinicians. All sessions are free to attend and captioned. All talks are recorded and posted free online. Click below to see the full schedule, register, and view past talks.

<https://www.acialliance.org/page/TuesdayTalks>

### **Medicare Expansion**

The first major initiative undertaken by the then newly organized American Cochlear Implant Alliance (ACI Alliance) in 2013 was a research project related to CI candidacy in older adults. In 2020, [the results of the study were published](#) with the results supporting expansion of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) current indications for cochlear implants.

On September 26, 2022, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) published details on its decision to expand coverage for cochlear implants under Medicare. This provides a significant improvement in access to care for older adults who are Medicare beneficiaries allowing individuals with hearing test scores between >40% and ≤60% to qualify for cochlear implantation. After reviewing the evidence submitted as part of the National Coverage Determination (NCD) process, CMS found that the evidence was sufficient to determine that cochlear implantation may be covered for a broader spectrum of hearing loss. <https://www.acialliance.org/page/MedicareExpansion>

### **Cochlear Implant Rehabilitation for Adults: Naama's Blog**

Cochlear Implant Rehabilitation for Adults, a blog offered by American Cochlear Implant Alliance, was launched in January 2016. It was initiated because of the scarcity of high-quality rehab guidance materials and direct rehab services available for adult CI recipients. Although adults comprise at least two-thirds of US cochlear implant users, the focus of (re)habilitation post CI surgery, has traditionally been on children.

<https://www.acialliance.org/page/AdultRehab>

[Back to top](#)

[WORLD NEWS – USA – ACI Alliance Task Force Guidelines Papers win Ear & Hearing Readers' Choice Award](#)





AMERICAN COCHLEAR IMPLANT ALLIANCE

*Research. Advocacy. Awareness.*

Three ACI Alliance Task Force papers were awarded the Ear & Hearing Readers' Choice Award on Friday, March 3rd at the American Auditory Society annual meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona. The Readers' Choice Award is given to the articles that have been accessed most often on the journal website and/or through the on-line portal.

Ear & Hearing published the three papers by ACI Alliance Task Forces on CI candidacy and management in 2022. The Task Forces were assembled to provide clarity on candidacy determination for adults and children with bilateral or single-sided deafness. The important collaborative work of the task forces is vital in expanding understanding of cochlear implant candidacy determination and management in various populations. The papers were endorsed by the American Academy of Audiology after a rigorous review by that organization.

The three papers to receive the awards are:

- American Cochlear Implant Alliance Task Force Guidelines for Clinical Assessment and Management of Cochlear Implantation in Children With Single-Sided Deafness, Authored by Lisa R. Park; Amanda M. Griffin; Douglas P. Sladen; Sara Neumann; Nancy M. Young
- American Cochlear Implant Alliance Task Force Guidelines for Determining Cochlear Implant Candidacy in Children, Authored by Andrea D. Warner-Czyz; Thomas J. Roland Jr; Denise Thomas; Kristin Uhler; Lindsay Zombek
- American Cochlear Implant Alliance Task Force Guidelines for Clinical Assessment and Management of Cochlear Implantation in Adults With Single-Sided Deafness, Authored by Margaret T. Dillon; Armine Kocharyan; Ghazal S. Daher; Matthew L. Carlson; William H. Shapiro; Hillary A. Snapp; Jill B. Firszt

The three papers, along with shareable infographics on key findings, are available on the

[ACI Alliance website.](#)

[Back to top](#)

## ADVANCED BIONICS – Celebrating 30 Years of Powerful Connections



In 1993, there were only 623 internet websites, including the Internet Movie Database and MTV. Nelson Mandela won the Nobel Peace Prize. The European Union was founded in Maastricht, Netherlands. In the United States, Red Delicious apples costed around 99 cents per pound whereas the average gallon of gas was \$1.16. Jurassic Park was the highest grossing film of the year; X-Files was airing on TV for the first time and Whitney Houston's "I Will Always Love You" was topping the charts for weeks all around the world.

Also in 1993, **Alfred Mann** – an American physicist, inventor, serial entrepreneur, and philanthropist – **founded Advanced Bionics** on the outskirts of Los Angeles, California. Since then, AB has created new opportunities for individuals with hearing loss — allowing them to form powerful connections and to live a life without limitations thanks to cochlear implants.

[Back to top](#)

## ADVANCED BIONICS – The Gift of Being Heard



***“It is not an overstatement to say that were it not for Advanced Bionics, I wouldn’t know my daughter. Bina was born deaf. The doctors categorized her deafness as profound. Back then, if you turned on a leaf blower right behind her, she wouldn’t hear it.”***

This month, on our blog CONNECTIONS, Bill tells us his daughter’s journey to hearing: *“The decision to get a cochlear implant was difficult. A doctor in Atlanta, Georgia, where we lived at the time, advised against it. [...] I guess he was concerned about the unique challenges presented by Bina’s cerebral palsy.”*

It was a tough time for Bill and his wife: here they were with a toddler who had motor issues and profound deafness, with whom they couldn’t communicate. → Luckily, a second doctor had a different opinion on the surgery.

That was 19 years ago. Today, Bina has cochlear implants in both ears and hears very well: *“Yes, technology can be a wonderful thing. AB’s cochlear implant technology not only gave Bina the ability to hear, but it gave her the ability to speak, express herself, form relationships, become employed, and have a bright future.”* Last summer we were happy to welcome Bina at AB’s headquarters in California and give her a tour. She could see how her implants were made, and she even got to meet, and thank, some of the AB team members who likely constructed her first cochlear implant.

Read the full story on [CONNECTIONS](#), and 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.

[Back to top](#)

## [COCHLEAR – Top tips when choosing your next smartphone](#)



### **Is the phone compatible with direct streaming?**

Direct streaming is a popular feature, with 82% of recipients saying direct streaming makes it easier to hear phone calls and 88% saying it is the most convenient way to listen to music. **(1)**

With a Cochlear™ Nucleus® 8 or Nucleus Kanso® 2 sound processor you can stream directly from most \* current-generation Apple and Android™ devices. Before you buy a phone, check the list of phones compatible with your sound processor at <http://www.cochlear.com/compatibility>.

### **Is the phone compatible with Cochlear Smart Apps?**

The Nucleus Smart App helps you manage hearing settings like volume and programme selection in everyday moments, so you can hear your best. Our Smart App can also give you access to **Cochlear Remote Care**, which enables you to receive care and support from your clinician without a clinic visit.\*

Cochlear Smart Apps can be used with most current-generation Apple and Android devices. You can check by visiting <http://www.cochlear.com/compatibility>.

### **Does the phone offer built-in features to help you hear better?**

Many of the latest generation smartphones offer features specially designed for people with hearing loss, like live transcription, captions, notifications and more. It's worth to search online for 'hearing accessibility' and the name of the phone before you choose which phone is best for you.

\* Not all products are available in all countries. For information regarding the sound processors, implants, operating systems and devices that are compatible with Cochlear's Remote Care services, visit [www.cochlear.com/compatibility](http://www.cochlear.com/compatibility)

# Not all features are available in all phones

1. Cochlear Limited. D1296247. CLTD5620. Clinical Evaluation of Nucleus 7 Cochlear Implant System. October 2017.

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

Cochlear's range of Smart Apps and Support Apps are available on App Store and/or Google Play. For information regarding the sound processors, operating systems and devices that are compatible with the Cochlear's range of Smart Apps and Support Apps, visit [www.cochlear.com/compatibility](http://www.cochlear.com/compatibility)

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Android is a trademark of Google LLC.

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

[Back to top](#)

**COCHLEAR – Hear the difference ForwardFocus makes**



You're just one click away from being able to hear the difference ForwardFocus makes to listening to conversations in noisy places.

ForwardFocus \* is a feature available in some of Cochlear™ Nucleus® System sound processors to help you focus on face-to-face conversations.

To bring this to life for you, we have created three short “before and after videos” filmed in real-life situations – a café, a campus and an office.

For the best experience, watch and listen to the video in a quiet environment.

Video 1: [Catching up with a friend over dinner](#)

Video 2: [Hearing exciting news while outside](#)

Video 3: [Planning a big project in the office](#)

ForwardFocus is available for example with the Nucleus 8 and Nucleus Kanso 2 sound processors. With the Nucleus 8 Sound Processor, an improved ForwardFocus can be automated and more powerfully± reduces distracting background noise when you want to focus on face-to-face conversations. **(1)**

Like to learn more about the latest hearing technology and upgrading to the Nucleus 8 Sound Processor? [Click to visit our website.](#)

\*ForwardFocus is a clinician-enabled, user-controlled feature.

± Compared to Nucleus 7 Sound Processor with ForwardFocus on.

1. Cochlear Limited. D1964109 CLTD5804 Clinical Investigation Report – Feb 2022.

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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.

Cochlear's range of Smart Apps and Support Apps are available on App Store and/or Google Play. For information regarding the sound processors, operating systems and devices that are compatible with the Cochlear's range of Smart Apps and Support Apps, visit [www.cochlear.com/compatibility](http://www.cochlear.com/compatibility)

Videos feature actors and should not be interpreted as a testimonial from a recipient.

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.

[Back to top](#)

## MED-EL – ideas4ears children’s invention contest – Meet the winners



The results are in! This season’s ideas4ears children’s invention contest by MED-EL is now closed but what a great year for ideas. The winners of the action-packed trip to Innsbruck, Austria, have been selected from hundreds of young inventors and creative minds aged 6-12 from all over the world. Their ideas could one day help to change the lives of people with hearing loss. Read one of the winning ideas:

*“My invention is a new CI able to be recharged by the human movement. This solution saves both the planet and the health of CI users.”* Kevin, ideas4ears winner from Italy

Would you like to meet our winners? Check out the [Facebook page](#). On the [ideas4ears website](#) you’ll find all the information on the contest itself and information about all our previous winners. Are you curious about the winner children’s trip in June? [Follow us](#) to stay up to date.

[Back to top](#)

[MED-EL – Free music training with Meludia and MED-EL](#)



MED-EL and cognition-training developers Meludia have joined forces to create a special online training tool designed to help people living with hearing loss to listen to and enjoy music.

Improve your hearing through music. It doesn't matter if you're already a musical maestro or beginner just looking for new ways to improve your hearing – Meludia is ideal for hearing implant users of all ages and levels. Following a program tailored to hearing implant users, you can:

- Deepen your enjoyment of music
- Increase your listening attention
- Improve your understanding of speech

Sign up to Meludia via [my.medel.com](https://my.medel.com) and enjoy 12 months of unlimited access for free (sign up before October 2023). [Get free access](#)

[Back to top](#)

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



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