EURO-CIU present at the Disability Day European Commission Conference

"Tackling barriers for children & young people with disabilities" was the title for the Disability Day European Commission Conference held on 7 and 8 December in Brussels which focused on the current situation of children and young people with disabilities and their access to education as a key factor for their participation in society that accepts them and respect their rights. As one of the speakers said: "Let's not sacrifice another generation. Ensure the rights of children now and the success examples would become habitual, instead of just an anecdote".

In the deafness field a cochlear implant teenager, Sigurd from Denmark, shared his experience in an inclusive school stating: "my future is not limited"; and our EURO-CIU President, Teresa Amat, remembered the right to choose the type of education for our children, whether it is inclusive, specialized for deaf or integral. We must not give families biased counsel for them to make an informed decision. The information should always be free, never be subjective or partial. Children with cochlear implants should get formal training. Forget then disability stigma and teach and learn the necessary tools so that our children will have the capabilities to integrate themselves in the European society and economy.

During the Conference, the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), UNICEF, and the President of the European Disability Forum (EDF), emphasized that the European Union should not spend their funds in institutions, but in community life. According to statistics, children with disabilities are 4 times more likely to be abused than their peers without disabilities and up to 17 times more likely to live in an institution or orphanage because of neglect and abuse. They claimed the need to support families and to offer services based in the local community, in health, education and social protection and not for institutions.
Conference to talk about rights, inclusion and bilingualism with C.I. next February 2016

- SPAIN: Eating without Noise campaign
- UK: Charity calls for urgent action to improve access to hearing technologies for older adults
- UK: Visiting the European Parliament
- UK: Mary Hare/University of Hertfordshire offer courses to prospective European students
- UK: The Ear Foundation "Virtual" Conference
- UK: Sounding Board for information and resources about cochlear implants
- ADVANCED BIONICS: Advanced Bionics Receives TÜV Approval for the Naida CI Q Series of Sound Processors
- ADVANCED BIONICS - "He is not me" in Hungary
- COCHLEAR: Cochlear Family - United by sound. Connected by Cochlear.
- COCHLEAR: International cricket legend and Cochlear's first Global Hearing Ambassador, Brett Lee unveils 'Sounds of Cricket' initiative
- COCHLEAR: Cochlear™ Wireless TV Streamer for Cochlear Nucleus® 6 users
- COCHLEAR: Connecting Middle East to the world of sound
- COCHLEAR: All Cochlear™ Nucleus® users, including those with a CI22 cochlear implant series can now upgrade to Cochlear Nucleus 6 Sound Processor
- MED-EL: Children should be seen and heard
- MED-EL: Modern Help with Tinnitus
- MED-EL: Dual-Language Learning for Children with Hearing Loss
- MED-EL: HearPeers Mentor Programme launched by MED-EL UK

(Photo: Christmas outside Westminster Abbey, London)

Many thanks for all your contributions - it's good to hear from so many different countries! And we are also grateful to the cochlear implant companies for keeping us up to date. I know that it's a busy time of year, but I'm very impressed by how many articles you have sent to me.

The next edition will be due in March, so please let me have your articles and jpg photos by Monday 7 March 2016. Just e-mail them to me at brian.archbold2@btinternet.com

Some of you downloaded the last edition as a pdf, and I hope you found this useful. The pdf download button can be found towards the top of the Newsletter at the left-hand side.

It just leaves me to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a contented and peaceful New Year.

Brian Archbold (Editor)

Back to top

EURO-CIU Workshop and General Assembly 1
EURO-CIU 2016 will take place in Italy, on 15th and 16th April 2016, at Villa Cagnola located at Gazzada Schianno, near Varese.

This ancient Villa will be the fabulous location of a meeting gathering official delegations coming from all over Europe, which this year aims at covering the basis of a European Guideline for Deafness Approach.

The definition of the topics, which are fundamental for a good recovery, recognised at a European Level, are the only hope to guarantee the same health approach to the citizens who want to hear, or let their children hear, in every country all over the European Union.

The kick-off of this project will be on Friday 15th during the Workshop on “Quality of Life and Rehabilitation Strategies for IC users”, organized by the Audiology Department of Ospedale Circolo Fondazione Macchi, Varese with the support of AGUAV/FAV.

ENT and Audiology surgeons, hearing-aid technicians, audiologists, speech therapists, educators, EURO-CIU delegates and AGUAV members can attend the Workshop. The day after will be reserved to EURO-CIU Delegations for the annual General Assembly.

**PRELIMINARY WORKSHOP PROGRAM**

15TH APRIL 2016

1. Welcome addresses and rehabilitation methods
2. Italian legislation concerning deafness (Italian Euro-CIU Representatives)
3. Varese rehabilitation method
4. Adult rehabilitation
5. Child rehabilitation
6. Rehabilitation from the educational point of view (at home, at school...)
7. Local areas realities: southern, central and northern Italy
8. Technology and connectivity
9. Experience of an adult patient
10. Experience of a child
11. Cochlear implant associations: how do they work (AGUAV, FIADDA, ALFA...)

You can find all information and registration form on [http://www.eurociu.org](http://www.eurociu.org) and [www.audiologia.it](http://www.audiologia.it), the official AGUAV/FAV web site.
Dear EURO-CIU members, friends and supporters,

We want to share with AGUAV team our will to have all of you met us at the fantastic Italian location of Varese. We call upon to attend all country members, friends and supporters, without exception, to send your delegates to have a successful gathering as we will always be stronger if we are together and moving in the same direction.

Kind regards,

EURO-CIU Board

(Photo: Tiziana Basso, Aguav President)
Dear Euro-CIU Members, professionals and families,

It’s a great honour for our association to host Euro-CIU Workshop and Annual General Assembly at a Varese on 15th and 16th April 2016. We have chosen an ancient historic resort, Villa Cagnola, located at Gazzada-Schianno, on the hills near Varese, so that we can have our meeting and accommodation in the same location.

It will be an important moment to meet with each other and share our own experiences, that can be similar or completely different, but we are convinced that we can improve only thanks to common work and a good exchange of ideas.

Starting from now, I welcome all Euro-CIU Members that will honour us with their presence.

I thank you for your precious contribution in advance and I’m looking forward to expressing it personally.

Kind Regards

Tiziana Basso
Aguav President

International Friendship Week 2016

(Photos: Montage from International Friendship Week 2015)

Sunday 24th July to Saturday 30th July 2016

The Ear Foundation and Euro CI Users group

Are you aged 11 – 16?

Do you want to meet with other Cochlear Implant users of your age from all over Europe?

If YES
International Friendship Week in England is the event for you.

Each country delegation consists of a group of teenagers led by 1 or 2 country leaders
who can be parents or professionals. The Ear Foundation then organises all the trips and activities for the holiday. During the week the young people make friends, practise speaking English, visit sights in the UK, learn about the other countries attending, practise doing presentations and lead small groups. For many it’s their first chance to travel independently to another country and the holiday provides many opportunities to grow and develop their skills within a very supportive friendly environment.

We are delighted that we already have some bookings from several countries to join us in 2016. Places are being taken up and we would love to extend an invitation to a couple of new countries who have not joined us before.

If you are interested what do you do?

Contact Clare Allen at The Ear Foundation. She will send you an information pack about what is involved and the costs. Her email is clare@earfoundation.org.uk. Her address is The Ear Foundation, 83 Sherwin Road, Lenton Nottingham NG7 2FB UK.

Back to top

The European Accessibility Act proposal is published to celebrate International Day of Persons with Disabilities

To celebrate this year’s International Day of Persons with Disabilities, which focuses on access and empowerment, the European Commission published the European Accessibility Act, a long-awaited piece of legislation that has been at the centre of its Freedom of Movement campaign for over three years.

Persons with disabilities currently face barriers to free movement within the EU on an equal basis with others. The European Accessibility Act, which takes the form of a Directive, has great potential to bring a positive change and will have a major influence on the accessibility of goods and services for persons with disabilities in the EU.

The publication of the proposal follows the recommendations made by the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities earlier in September calling on the EU to adopt the Accessibility Act as a step towards better implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD).

The Commission has planned an initial consultation period on the text where stakeholders can give their feedback and in which European Disability Forum, EDF, will participate with all their members, including EURO-CIU.

EURO-CIU wants to remember, not all disabilities are visible with a simple look. Cochlear Implant users live in a society full of communication barriers, which is why the article 9 of UN CRPD is so important to us. It states:

- to enable persons with disabilities to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life, States Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure to persons with disabilities access, on an equal basis with others, (...) to information and communication, including information and communication technologies and systems, and to other facilities and services open or provided to the public,
both in urban and in rural areas. These measures, which shall include the identification and elimination of obstacles and barriers to accessibility.

We have to use this day to expand our horizons and raise awareness in society about our needs. Cochlear Implant users do not always use sign language. For us, breaking accessibility barriers means captioning, loops, transcriptions, etc.

Explain your experience on Twitter and Facebook. Use the international day of persons with disabilities to defend our right to access to information and communication.

**We are not invisible! Bring down the barriers!**

www.eurociu.org
twitter.com/eurociu

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Let’s celebrate the International Cochlear Implant Day on 25 February 2016

EURO-CIU would like to recommend all member organisations to celebrate the **International Cochlear Implant Day** in their country by spreading awareness about this incredible technology that has given more than 150,000 in Europe and nearly 400,000 people around the world, access to sounds.

February 25 has been named “International Cochlear Implant Day” because on that day in 1957, two French doctors, André Djourno en Charles Eyrïès, were the first to electrically stimulate the auditory nerve by placing an electrode outside the cochlea. So we are celebrating next year the 59th anniversary.

The first International CI Day was held in 2009 by the Spanish CI-users organisation “Federación AICE”, making next year the 8th one. Ever since in different countries all over the world several activities have been organized on this date to create awareness and positive media attention to cochlear implantations.

We would also recommend you all to celebrate this day and let us know your activities and to write an article in our next EURO-CIU newsletter.

**Teresa Amat**
President EURO-CIU
teresa@implantecoclear.org

**Leo De Raeve**
Scientific Advisor EURO-CIU
leo.de.raeve@onici.be
FEAPDA Congress 2016

SAVE THE DATE 21/22 October 2016 FEAPDA Congress

The 2016 FEAPDA (Fédération Européenne des Associations de Professeurs de Déficients Auditifs; European Federation of Associations of Teachers of the Deaf) Congress will take place at the new Centre de Logopédie in Luxembourg on Friday and Saturday 21st and 22nd October 2016. The theme of the congress is “Inclusion and what it means for deaf education”.

The Congress will be looking at effective practice in the educational, linguistic and audiological aspects of inclusive education. This will cover teaching, language and communication approaches including sign language, implants and hearing aids and acoustics.

It will also consider the socio-emotional aspects of deaf children and young people and their hearing peers in different school settings, how different organisations working with deaf children can collaborate better in the interest of the children and the implications for initial training and continuing professional development.

The Congress language will be English, but there will be German Sign Language and translation into German on demand.

The call for contributions is now open and details can be seen here:
http://www.feapdacongress2016.lu/call-for-contributions.html

Registration is now open also. Go to the congress website:

Paul Simpson, FEAPDA President
In September the 5th symposium of the ÖCIG took place.

This time, we could use the great auditorium at Mrs. Dir. Mag. Kartharina Strohmayers for our event. A sign language interpreter and a ring line (loop) for inductive hearing, arranged by Alfred Sturma, granted accessibility.

Prim. Univ.-Prof. Dr. Gerd Rasp carefully led us through the programme. The topic of this year's event was:

“Cochlear Implants – new developments and indications”

Highly diverse was the programme. From presentations of the product innovations to therapy forms as well as reports by CI-wearers – everything was included.

In the morning, Prim. Univ.-Prof. Dr. Georg Sprinzl reported about indications for hearing-implants through the course of time as well as the usage of CI by elderly people. Lately the topic of radiological examination for CI-wearer got more and more into focus and Univ.-Prof. Dr. Wolf Dieter Baumgartner held a very interesting presentation about this. Prim. Univ.-Prof. Dr. Gerd Rasp informed about new surgery methods.

Dipl. Audipäd. Ulrike Rülicke presented together with Prof. DI Mag. Friedrich Rödler the individual rehabilitation and its advantages. Mag. Bianca Wirthner presented the workspace music therapy for CI-patients in the university hospital St. Pölten.

In the afternoon, Elisabeth Reidl, Daniel Miskulnig and Franz Kettele touchingly reported as CI-wearers about their personal experiences.

Afterwards the three big CI-producers Advanced Bionics (DI Christoph Roos), Cochlear (Anton Zehentbauer MBA) und MED-EL (Ing. Eva Kohl) had the opportunity to present their new products and innovations. Mr. Johannes Öhlinger represented the company Bagus who informed about communication aids for people with impaired hearing.

The audience had the opportunity to ask questions after every presentation and to discuss. Many participants made use of the time during the breaks to speak about personal questions, personal matters and problems with the representatives of the companies. Other exhibitors were “ihr zubeHÖR” with Manfred Kapfenberger and “Hör-Akustik Döbling” with MMag. Herdis H. Manhardt. Markus Raad with the CI support group was also present with an information stand.

After a brisk exchange of experiences between the audience members, the Symposium ended, with more than 100 participants.
BELGIUM: Adult Cochlear Implantation: the Belgian experience

Adult Cochlear Implantation: The Belgian experience

Brian Lamb - OBE, Leo De Raeve - PhD
and Sue Archbold - PhD

Report and research supported by an educational grant from Cochlear.
The report is the work of the authors.

Adult Cochlear Implantation: the Belgian experience,
by Brian Lamb OBE, Dr Leo De Raeve and Dr Sue Archbold

Belgium was at the forefront of developments in cochlear implantation, and still is, concerning (bilateral) paediatric implantation; but today lags behind in its provision of implants for adults.

More than 90% of deaf born children receive a cochlear implant early in life and even 70% are bilaterally implanted. But, only 6.6% of adults who might have benefitted from an implant are in fact getting one. This rate of underutilisation is similar to that seen in the USA, UK and The Netherlands.

Knowing that hearing loss in adulthood is linked to a greater likelihood of unemployment, as well as an increased risk of poor health, depression and other conditions including dementia, urgent action is needed.
Brian Lamb, Leo De Raeve and Sue Archbold (supported by Cochlear Benelux) have written a document which can be used to raise awareness on hearing loss and cochlear implants in society, among deaf adults and more specific to general practitioners, ENT-doctors, audiologists and Public Health Authorities.

The document ‘Adult Cochlear Implantation: the Belgian experience’ can be downloaded as a pdf-file from:


DENMARK: My Turn to Talk

For the parents of children with cochlear implants, the switch-on is just one moment in a longer journey. They face many decisions from the moment their child is diagnosed with a hearing impairment, through their child’s surgery and all subsequent rehabilitation. This is why the Ida Institute is pleased to announce the launch of its first tool for cochlear implant patients and their families, “My Turn to Talk”.

My Turn to Talk is an online tool for parents of children with cochlear implants to use before their appointments with hearing care professionals. The tool helps parents organize their thoughts, concerns, and questions, so they can come to the appointment prepared to talk.

Parents are prompted with phrases such as, “I’m happy about…” “I’m concerned about…” “I want to talk about…” and “I need help with…”. They are given space beneath each phrase to fill in their thoughts and concerns. By completing the tool ahead of time, their hearing care professional can conduct an efficient appointment while providing the families with personalized care that meets their individual needs.

My Turn to Talk also asks the parents to identify who the most important communication partners are in the child’s life and how often the child will communicate with them. This again primes the parents to consider the child’s daily successes and challenges ahead of time, which can help everyone strategize effective ways of dealing with the challenges.

After filling out the tool, parents will be able to save the session as a PDF and either email it to their clinician or bring it to the appointment. By saving earlier sessions, both parents and professionals can use My Turn to Talk as a way of tracking the child’s hearing journey, including milestones and progress points.
“With the **My Turn to Talk Tool**, we help parents articulate their questions and concerns so they can get the information and the support that they need to make the best choices for their child,” said Ida Institute Managing Director Lise Lotte Bundesen. “It is a tool that can be used again and again before appointments, continuing to provide value even as children grow and parents become more engaged in the CI process.”

My Turn to Talk is a product of the Ida seminar, “Successes, Gaps, and Challenges in CI Rehabilitation: The CI Journey for Children and Their Families,” held in April 2015. The 21 participants from 14 countries included audiologists, teachers of the deaf, surgeons, and a psychologist. The seminar investigated the various practical and emotional needs of families of children with cochlear implants, and looked into what support hearing care professionals can provide for them in terms of tangible resources, references to public services, and emotional encouragement. Participants discussed these issues in groups at the seminar, and their work led to the concept and development of My Turn to Talk.

As with all Ida tools, My Turn to Talk is freely available through the Ida Institute website at:

http://idainstitute.com/toolbox/cochlear_implants/my_turn_to_talk/

Members of the Ida community will have access to a link to copy and share with their patients.

**GERMANY: Obituary – Franz Hermann**

Reminiscence to an institution

He was a pillar of strength with an iron will and a great understanding for his fellow human beings: Franz Hermann. The honorary president of the DCIG succumbed to his injuries caused by a traffic accident at the age of 76.

In company with his wife Hanna Hermann, long-time head editor of the specialist journal Schnecke, he made the cochlear implant better known in Germany. For many years he was THE face of the DCIG.

Franz Hermann joined the DCIG (Deutsche Cochlea Implantat Gesellschaft e.V., German Cochlear Implant Society) on the first of July 1988. From 1989 till 1993 he was cash auditor and from 1997 till 1999 Third Chairman of the DCIG. From 2000 till April 2004, Franz Hermann was executive director of the DCIG, from 1999 till 2014 president of the DCIG and since 2014 honorary president. In addition, he was a founding member of the Bavarian Cochlear Implant Association in September 1997, chairman of the BayCiv from
1997 till October 2010 as well as honorary member of the BayCiv since September 2012. During the presidency of Franz Hermann, the first German CI Day with the motto “Deaf and still hearing!” took place. It was and is the purpose of this day to make the cochlear implant even better known.

Franz Hermann received the Medal for Merit of the German Society for otolaryngology and head and neck surgery, and in April 2003 he received the Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Functions of the federal association are the support of the hearing-impaired, the political work in the Common Federal Committee for the Benefit of the Hearing-Impaired (that Franz Hermann always promoted), the counselling of people with a (near-deafness) hearing impairment as well as deaf people with regard to a CI implantation, the public relations and the promotion of children and adolescents with a CI. Franz Hermann gave himself to all of these tasks with great diligence and empathy.

One of his particular concerns was to eviscerate the fronts between deaf persons and people wearing a CI, between the German Association of Deaf Persons and the DCIG, by the means of multi-level conversations.

The DCIG seminar for hearing-impaired parents with CI-wearing children in June 2013 in Darmstadt accomplished that goal in front of a live camera of the Bavarian Broadcasting Corporation for the program “Seeing instead of Hearing”. Franz Hermann always took a very committed stand for positive relations between the individual associations of the hearing-impaired. He deeply coined the DCIG.

The present president of the DCIG, Dr. Roland Zeh: “The news of Franz Hermann’s sudden death knocked me out. For me, as for many other people in the DCIG and its environment, Franz Hermann was a role model, authority and friend at the same time. His dedication to people with hearing impairments was relentless. One could always trust in his advice. Without him, the DCIG and the Schnecke wouldn’t be what they are today. I would have wished that Franz and his wife Hanna had been able to still spend a lot more years together. We will really miss him.”

Only one week ago, Franz and Hanna Hermann visited the new premises of the DCIG and the editorial department of the Schnecke and talked about their plans for the future. This contributes to the big shock. The thoughts of the whole editorial team are with Hanna Hermann. Together with friends and family members we mourn a great person, a real institution.

Life:


(Note from the Editor: Franz will be missed by so many people. All his friends in EURO-CIU send their sincere condolences to Hanna and to his family & close friends.)

Back to top

GERMANY: The DCIG blog workshop
How to create an online self-help group? Part II of the DCIG blog workshop took place in Heidelberg at the weekend of Halloween (October 31st – November 2nd 2015). A professional photographer, the owner of an ad agency, a psychologist and the DCIG vice president all had lots of ideas to put the project into action.

What happened from May to October?

After a short and interesting review of part I of the blog workshop, the new participants were well informed and motivated. Ulf Tramsen, owner of an ad agency in Weinheim, presented an inspiring draft of the brainstorming of part I. Layout, structure as well as the precise implementation of the participants’ ideas were very impressive and aroused their anticipation of going online.

DCIG Halloween Special

This was the motto for a fantastic community night spent in the centre of Heidelberg. After a day full of events, we strode out and celebrated at a Halloween party in a dim bar with loud music. In spite of the bad acoustics, there were no communication problems, only lots of fun and material for lasting memories. Oliver Hupka, audiotherapist and vice president of the DCIG, called attention to that successfully mastered situation: “Normally, those would be the worst possible conditions for hearing-impaired people. Such a situation often causes them a feeling of uneasiness among people who hear well and leaves them with the possibility to either pretend or being left out. But I didn’t witness any communication difficulties last night, rather to the contrary… My guess is that you were just self-confident and not ashamed of asking!”

Vlog – an interesting compound of video and blog

Participant Damian Breu gave an account of his knowledge in the video area and presented his videos on funny everyday situations of a hearing-impaired. To convey such
situations in a written text is often a lot more difficult and not as comprehensible as a short video clip. A hearing-impaired will immediately recognize himself, but what is really exciting about this format, is the insight it gives to those who hear well into what it means to be handicapped. His idea was infectious, and soon everybody told their most hilarious every day stories.

**Virtual communication**

In the following, Lisa Manow (psychologist) discussed the chances and risks of virtual communication. She pointed out that it can be very relieving and liberating to write down one’s experiences in the form of a blog. To understand that one is not alone with his problems as well as the exchanges with other hearing-impaired people is very precious. At the same time, she had the participants consider that there always is the danger of making oneself vulnerable to attacks or of becoming too dependent on likes and positive feedback.

**A picture is worth a thousand words**

 Afterwards, Christian Borth gave an insight into the life of a professional photographer and provided helpful tips for own photos. He made clear that photography allows us to capture singular moments and to share them with others. At the same time, there is the possibility of (self-) staging, and photos can also be an instrument to cause certain feelings in the viewer, consciously or unconsciously. The photographer emphasized the importance of a well-elaborated concept and a precise implementation for good photographs but also demonstrated how to make great snapshots. His works telling thrilling background stories made a great impression on the participants. To put into action what they had learned so far, they strode out to develop own concepts for the topics “Conveying emotions”, “Portrayment of two persons (so that the viewer gets to know their personalities)” and “Presentation of the premises (youth hostel)”. Nobody would have thought how much potential there would be in the up-and-coming photographers (for more see [www.deaf-ohr-alive.de](http://www.deaf-ohr-alive.de) and [www.dcig.de](http://www.dcig.de)).

**An impressive and interesting weekend comes to an end**

Monday was dedicated to the exchange between medical and industrial professionals and the young participants. Together they discussed how representatives of production companies and clinics could participate in the new community platform. This brainstorming was also a singular opportunity for the participants to give the chief physicians a bit of their mind on multiple topics.

„*We“- a community that welds together*  

As a participant of the blog workshop, I may say that all of my expectations were exceeded. I learned a lot about the topics of photography, the creation of a blog and the community that it builds. The best thing about the workshop was the fact that not our hearing impairment was in the focus, but our shared motivation to contribute to the creation of an online self-help group.

*Helen Sovdat (18 y.)*  
*Participant of Blog Workshop II*

**Back to top**

**GERMANY: DCIG reward 2015: New guidelines for supporting hearing impaired children at school – much more than repair instructions!**
New guidelines for supporting hearing impaired children in regular schools have been submitted by experienced parents. At the moment inclusion of hearing impaired children in Germany is quite often a matter of luck and almost always depends on where children live and go to school. Although Germany has signed the UN convention several years ago up to now there are no overall rules that control everyday life of hearing-impaired students. Thus the situation now is that arbitrarily only one school offers some well-known means of support (but necessarily not the most suitable one) whereas another one doesn’t do anything. Parents have nearly no influence of what happens to their children at school. Moreover there is no general discussion about what support is possible let alone about what might be helpful in a specific situation. The consequences are widespread – hearing impaired children are much more in distress and cannot show their whole spectrum of cognitive or social potentials, some even suffer from burn-out and depression!

Thus the Cochlear Implant Verband Mitteldeutschland, one of ten regional associations of DCIG, has now submitted the first comprehensive concept of supporting hard-of-hearing children at school rather than a new collection of “repair instructions”. These guidelines cover a whole spectrum of supporting possibilities for the cognitive as well as for the psychosocial development. As a kind of toolbox it can be used to build up the most suitable setting for each child. The idea is to ensure that everyone in the process teachers, parents and children – has the same knowledge about the vast and many means of support in varying aspects.

Nevertheless the editors emphasize that the most important contributing factor for families with hearing impaired children to feel safe and welcome is schools and teachers being open-minded, loyal and biased to the children’s needs. Thus the headline of the first chapter is ‘Saying a warm welcome to the hearing impaired child and his/her family”. Furthermore it shows the chances to develop school life fundamentally and for all participants.

To encourage teachers to try out the proposals of the guidelines workshops are offered showing the relevance of this concept in real situations!

Download of the guidelines: http://civ-mitteldeutschland.de/cms/front_content.php?idcat=48
Further information: info@civ-mitteldeutschland.de
The OUVIR (Hear) – Portuguese Association of Hearing Aids and Implants Users was founded on the 11th March 2011.

The OUVIR association aims to represent and defend the general interests, individuals and collective of its members and also as consumers of the hearing aids and implants users living in Portugal. It’s intended to provide conditions for all the hearing loss people can reduce the physical, psychological, social and vocational impact that a disability caused by own hearing loss can do, as well as clarify, prevent or inform the family and the population in general of which the procedures in help to these same people.

OUVIR association’s first steps in EURO-CIU were on the past March 2015, and it was (re)presented last General Meeting/Symposium at Antwerp on last April, by its President, António Ricardo Miranda.

http://www.ouvir.pt/index.html

Back to top

PORTUGAL: Healthcare Conference Symposium, 2nd and 3rd October 2015 – Oporto
“Let’s talk about the healthcare’s future in Portugal”, was the name of a symposium, attended by OUVIR’s President, António Ricardo Miranda. It was held in Oporto, organized and directed by our partner. The main role of the event was to get to all the Portuguese population, the information and answers about relevant questions of the Portuguese Healthcare’s system. It also raised important questions, discussing some of healthcare’s relevant areas, public and private.

One of the most relevant questions that divides public opinion, is about healthcare’s future. Will it be public, private or a mix in cooperation between public and private? Any of these options has an impact in the healthcare system as the perception in actual status:

- **Will the Healthcare’s system be a business?**

  Private or public sector, shall we think about the Healthcare system as a business or public sector accessible to the entire population? What are the limitations?

- **Additional services, are those important?**

  There are a whole group of several sectors of healthcare’s systems underlying the common healthcare system, in which these changes and realities affect the additional services of the same, namely the home and continuous care services, as well as welfare and other services.

- **Which the supports? Are those enough?**

  With the increasing age of the Portuguese population, we also need to understand the supportive needs for this age group. The actual support is lacking and in some situations is unavailable.

  We know that the Portuguese Healthcare system presents some needs which have to be addressed, and we are also aware that waiting lists are too long.
Active Citizenship was the great unifying theme of the 8th edition of the Greenfest, and the first one in what the OUVIR association was participating.

‘The voice and the hearing’ and ‘Two different ways for the hearing loss/deaf people’ - discussed by: Dra. Luisa Monteiro, ENT’s specialist from Lusiada’s Hospital, and our honoured member; André Couto, a deaf doctor’s deaf father; Eng. Rui Miguel Pinheiro, FPAS – Portuguese Federation of Deaf Associations - representative; a cochlear implant and hearing aid user witness, Eng. António Ricardo Miranda; and, two witness of deaf people, as Pedro Jorge Jacinto Ribeiro and Cláudia Patrícia Dias Canavarro Veiga) and screenings (hearing and vocal, by Dra. Clara Capucho – Egas Moniz’s Hospital).

Each citizen has the “power” of being a changing element and the skill to transform their own world. Individually and in community, each one of us can contribute to a fairer and more sustainable world. Also the organizations have an important main role in the social, environmental and economical context and contribute to the development of a better world.

- More sustainable in the healthcare’s sector:

All the healthcare’s systems are different from country to country, while every countries share the same goal: rendering the best healthcare to a reasonable cost, keeping the system sustainable.

In Portugal, the challenge of the national Healthcare’s system is very big and only through of an approach that integrates several interesting parts, with partners’ mutual benefit. Preventing and diagnosing diseases is also a big trend to the future of health in which it’s inseparable from technology and innovation.
Magic Ears” and the next Events

On 17th October 2015, the book of our founding member, Maria Alice Pereira Inácio, was released in Jacob Rodrigues Pereira Institute auditorium, and presented by distinguished guests such as, Dr. Rui Nunes (Widex’s director), João Januário (Cochlear’s representative), and Dr. Pedro Brás Silva (speech therapist), and where our President, António Ricardo Miranda was participating.

The book of “Jonas and the Magic Ears” illustrates something that hadn’t existed before in Portuguese language, and it can answer one of the main requirements in the process of the inclusion of deaf children. The hearing loss problem is one of the main characteristics and the fact of it not being visible, using a cochlear implant, the user called Jonas changes his behaviours and attitudes frequently towards the sounds he hears.

Remembering this book reference, we would like to inform you that on the 11th and 13th December, in Coimbra, the ‘Cochlear Implants Congress’ will take place, and it will be marked by the 30 years of History in Portugal which was started by the greatest and OUVIR’s honoured members and ENT’s, Dr. Manuel Filipe Rodrigues and Dr. Fernando Rodrigues.

On next 11th March 2015, and we’d like to invite all the EURO-CIU’s delegations/members to be part of an event, as our association will be celebrating its 5th birthday. At the moment, we’re still planning and organizing the event. But, we’ll invite professionals (ENT’s, speech therapists, audiologists, etc), benchmarks representatives, governments entities and institutions representatives, and of course, hearing aids and implants users and members of OUVIR. Maybe we’ll organize another event later, and for the same time, restart the Summer meetings like picnics at June/July and the Christmas dinner for the end of year at November/December.

First International Congress of Portuguese Society of Speech Therapy (PSST), in Santo Tirso’s Factory, between 13th and 15th May, it’ll be sponsored by our association as the official partner of the event.

It’s the first Congress of PSST and it’s an event that is being organized with great motivation, and is sponsored by our OUVIR association, on the expectation of being marked as a special event. This Congress demonstrates an example of interdisciplinary
work from different scientific areas, with Portuguese and international speakers of professional and scientific recognized merit, where it will combine the highest scientific quality of plenary sessions, trainee programmes, workshops and symposiums, with the practical applicability of the issues addressed.

One of the highlights will be the presentation of the Scientific Merit Award of the 2016 PSST, which will take place at the Congress Gala Dinner. The Congress’ organizing and scientific committee is dedicated into making this event one of the year’s most prestigious events.

Back to top

SPAIN: XVIII Edition of the AICE Awards

On November 28 was held at the Hotel Catalonia Barcelona Plaza in Barcelona the ceremony of the XVIII AICE Awards. The event was chaired by the Honourable Dolors Montserrat, the 3rd Vice-President of the Spanish Congress of Deputies, and Joan Zamora, President of Federación AICE. The awards are given to people and entities that during the year were highlighted by one of the objectives that the organization considers priorities in the world of the cochlear implant, deafness and/or disability in general.

Over eighty people, including cochlear implant users of all ages, families, deaf, entities and various authorities, attended the dinner sharing experiences and laughter. As usual, the ceremony of the XVIII AICE Awards was accessible to communication thanks to live transcription.

These were the winners:

Medical Award. It went to Dr. Manuel Tomás Barberán, from Hospital Son Espases in Majorca, because of his scientific and formative task during all these years. Dr. Tomás, who was clearly moved, said that “no profession is as beautiful as ours because we can help other. It gives me such a thrill to receive this since it comes from people who works in our field daily”.

Mass Media Award. Since ends of 2012, Canal Sur 2 (from Andalucía) broadcast in the same signal as Canal Sur but with the 100% of the programming accessible to communication. José Antonio del Saz, Canal Sur’s Director of Broadcasting, was the one
to pick up the prize and declared that “public mass media have different functions and, between them, one is to make that all persons can access to all the programming and the information”.

**Institutional Award.** It went to Dra. Maravillas Izquierdo, who is General Deputy Director of Basic Portfolio of the Spanish Health National System, due to the work which is currently making in the Benefits Catalogue to include it in the Social Security. Dra. Izquierdo couldn’t attend to the ceremony due to professional reasons, but she sent a video in appreciation where she said that this award “will always have a special place not only in my office but also in my heart”.

**Accessibility Award.** It went to the Spanish Centre of Subtitled and Audiodescription (CESyA) because they are making such a great work in the field of accessibility to the communication, helping in the creation of laws and norms, etc. Belén Ruiz and José Manuel Sánchez, who are CESyA’s Director and Assistant Manager respectively, were the one to gather the award and they said that CESyA has “more than 10 years working for the accessibility and this is why this award is so special for us, because it comes from our users”.

**Volunteer Award** This prize is for those people who give their time to work with the Federación AICE, and so we want to show them our appreciation. The award was presented to José Luis Escalona, a Cochlear Implant user, who seems always to be in the “shadows” but who is a fundamental pillar of a structure which would totter without his work and presence. Besides, he was the first person who talked about Cochlear Implants on the Aragón TV. José Luis picked up his award surrounded loud applause and cheers and he could only say “thank you everyone, but especially thanks to Fernando, and I hope to keep collaborating day by day”.

Next, two commemorative plaques were given to Alberto Rodríguez and Josep Ma. Folch for all their labour in the Federación AICE’s Board during these years. The ceremony ended with some words from Dolors Montserrat, who was awarded with a ceramic brooch created by Glòria Salvadó who is a Cochlear Implant user, saying “thank you very much. Each day I learn from you, from your daily work and I will always have you in my heart”.

**Back to top**

**SPAIN: Two-day Conference to talk about rights, inclusion and bilingualism with C.I. next February 2016**
Federación AICE celebrates the International Cochlear Implant Day each February 25th with different and various celebrations throughout Spain. On 2016, the main event will take place on February 25th and 26th in Madrid, with a two-day conference called “Inclusion and rights of the C.I. users”.

On Tuesday 25th morning, we will have Catherine Naughton from the European Disability Forum (EDF), talking about the freedom of movements of all disabled people to work and study; Ángela Alcalá from University of Zaragoza and Celesta Asensi from University of Valencia will be discussing the rights of deaf young people in the Spanish universities; Teresa Amat will be presenting the Spanish edition of “Teenagers with Cochlear Implants”, and Diana Harbor, from The Ear Foundation, will be speaking about the Abilities of young people with Cochlear Implants.

After lunch, Carmen Abascal from Oír Es Clave Foundation will speak about Inclusion for all. And Michael Douglas, MA, CCC-SLP, LSLS, Cert AVT, Principal of Mama Lere Hearing School, Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences (Vanderbilt University – USA) will hold an interactive workshop about Bilingualism and Cochlear Implants. “Yes! You child with a cochlear implant can learn multiple languages” is the title of the article he wrote for Federación AICE’s magazine, Integración. You can read it in Spanish on our website: www.implantecoclear.org

On this day, there will be simultaneous translation (English and Spanish).

On February 26th, Dr. Hector Vallés, from Hospital Lozano Blesa of Zaragoza, will give a lecture called “The impact of the noise in deafness”. Later, the campaign about the noise and young people will be presented. And finally, Laia Zamora will moderate a round table with various deaf and C.I. users young people, talking about their concerns. There will not be simultaneous translation on Friday (main language: Spanish).

Don’t miss the chance to attend to this interesting conference to celebrate the International Cochlear Implant Day!! For more information, please contact Federación AICE: aice@implantecoclear.org

Back to top

SPAIN: Eating without Noise campaign
We have all experienced what is generally referred to as the “coffee effect” when we go out with our friends for dinner on a Friday evening. Little by little as the restaurant fills up with guests, the noise level rises and we all end up having to almost scream to make ourselves heard at the table. The best way to deal with this problem is to ensure that restaurants are acoustically well built and decorated.

The Anglo-Spanish charity “Clave” (Oiresclave.org), that works to improve quality of life of the hearing impaired, has just recently launched a campaign called “comer sin ruido” (comersinruido.org) or “eating without noise” in English, that aims to sensitize about the problems, and solutions, regarding noise levels in restaurants and bars. Spain is the second noisiest country in the world and we feel that something has to be done to improve this situation. We are, of course, equally concerned about noise in Schools, Hospitals, offices and other public spaces and the fact that initiatives such as this benefits not only the population with hearing impairment, but in fact everybody else as well, only makes this campaign more attractive.

The campaign-web offers advice to restaurant owners as well as a questionnaire that permits any restaurant to sign up as a listed restaurant if certain minimum requirements are fulfilled. We would very much like this initiative to evolve into a quality label with time but that would, of course, involve inspections, audits that, at this time, we do not have the capacity to take on.

We have been lucky to count on the backing of many of Spain’s most well known chefs, all Michelin starred, such as: Ramon Freixa, Martin Berasategui or Carme Ruscalleda. However, and as much as we appreciate this support, we do not want this to be seen as an “elitist campaign” but rather as a meeting place for any establishment that takes pride in offering a sound acoustic environment for their customers. Ideally, we would like to see noise level or acoustic environment as a criterion for evaluating restaurants much the same way the food, the wine list, or the service is evaluated in all restaurant guides.

The campaign has received a lot of media attention in Spain. National and local media alike have all taken interest in “comersinriudo.org” as well as most foreign language publications aimed at foreign residents along the Mediterranean coast. We are of course equally excited to witness a growing interest from prestigious European Newspapers such as the Daily Telegraph in the UK. Maybe in a not too distant future, all of us and most importantly the growing population of hearing impaired people will be able to enjoy a night out with friends and actually benefit from having understood the conversation at the table.

*Clave, caring for hearing impairment, is a UK registered charity incorporated in 2007 although its main area of activity is Spain and the Spanish speaking world where Clave operates through its branch, Clave atencion a la deficiencia auditiva, since early 2008.

Back to top

UK: Charity calls for urgent action to improve access to hearing technologies for older adults
Losing the ability to communicate through hearing loss is one of the least recognised public health issues of our time, storing up a crisis for our health service. This is the warning from The Ear Foundation's chief executive Sue Archbold on the launch of the charity's Bending the Spend Report in the House of Commons, London on 13 October.

National hearing charity The Ear Foundation, based in Nottingham, has called for immediate improvements in treating adults aged over 65 with hearing loss for millions of our older citizens to avoid dementia, depression and reduce the risk of life threatening falls.

The research shows that money for making these improvements could be found from the extensive savings achieved by people depending less on health services and having their hearing loss properly addressed.

Sue Archbold says: "Hearing is one of the most acute unmet needs in terms of the health of older people today as people face a greater risk from health problems and the social isolation of deafness.

"Many older adults who have hearing aids that are no longer effective are unaware they could be considered for the more advanced technology of a cochlear implant. In fact, just 5% of those who could benefit from a cochlear implant are fitted with one."

Research by The Ear Foundation into the benefits of cochlear implantation shows that over £92 million a year has already been saved in reduced use of GPs and social work services. "Over the period of the research (1992 - 2009) this represents an overall saving to the public purse of £1.56 billion - more than enough to fund expenditure on hearing services in the NHS for the next three years going forward," says Dr Archbold.

As a matter of urgency, The Ear Foundation is calling for:

1. The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) to review its current guidance on cochlear implantation so that a wider group of adults can benefit;
2. Better education in the benefits of cochlear implantation for audiologists and GPs to ensure that all those who could benefit can do;
3. Commissioners to take into account the long-term savings of being fitted with this technology and ensure that as savings are realised they can be invested in extending the service.
Dr Archbold says that action is needed now: "We're not asking the Government to spend more money, but to reconsider how the money is spent - 'bending the spend' away from dealing with the consequences of hearing impairment to addressing the problem at source.

UK: Visiting the European Parliament

(No Image)

On 9 November Sue was invited by the Danish Sound Innovation Network to speak at a SoundCARE group meeting in the EU Parliament in Brussels. The event was co-hosted by Christel Schaldemose, Danish MEP and was aimed at raising awareness of hearing loss in the European Parliament. It was interesting that she commented that it was the first time a group had raised hearing loss with her, which demonstrates how much there is to do.

Two international workshops were organised in 2015 by the group to foster more collaboration for European researchers and industry stakeholders by the organising partners from Denmark, Germany and The Netherlands, and this was the second. Sue spoke about The Ear Foundation’s third report on adult hearing loss and societal costs, "Bending the Spend". Her talk was entitled "Adult hearing loss – a burden to society - or not?"

There was a lot of interest in the issues around the growing issue of adult hearing loss and the financial and societal implications of managing it.

Programme is at:
http://danishsound.org/sites/default/files/Pdfer/03112015_SoundCARE2_practical_info.pdf

UK: Mary Hare/University of Hertfordshire offer courses to prospective European students
MSc/PGDip course in Educational Audiology and MA/PG Dip/PGCert in Early Years and Deafness

At the heart of our Early Years and Deafness course and our Educational Audiology is the partnering of interests of both Cochlear Implant Users and Educational Audiologists. CI users and their parents are concerned with early intervention when their baby is identified as deaf, and later with how their equipment and learning is managed in a school setting to optimize education. Early interventionists and Educational Audiologists are keen to understand how they can support these cochlear implant users in the family and in the classroom to maximise their listening learning.

These courses have been running in the United Kingdom for a decade and a half. They are the only course of their kind in the UK, and possibly Europe. The courses are accredited by University of Hertfordshire, and are moderated by an external examiner. Students are full-time professionals, usually working as Teachers of the Deaf or in other related professions, and the courses are part-time, blended face-to-face with some distance components.

The Educational Audiology course covers the family-friendly role of the Educational Audiologist in supporting infants, children, teenagers and their families with cochlear implants and hearing aids, including assessment, habilitation, speech acoustics, room acoustics, psychoacoustics, anatomy & physiology, and working in partnership with other professionals and with families. It addresses the roles and competencies for Educational Audiologists as set out by the BAEA (British Association for Educational Audiologists). The Early Years and Deafness course has four modules covering the developing deaf baby, audiological management, working in partnership with families. These courses are taught by well-experienced educational audiologists, speech-language therapists, clinical scientists in audiology, teachers of the deaf, and researchers.

Educational Audiology and Early Years graduates are employed throughout the UK, and indeed several European countries, in a wide variety of roles. These may include some or all of the following skills: educational and audiological assessments including hearing screening and children with complex needs, acoustic assessment and recommendations for educational environment, hearing aid and ear mould fitting, verification of hearing aids or auditory implant (mainly cochlear implant) settings, FM fitting and balancing, advice to services about inclusion, consideration of ethical and multicultural issues, and close liaison between children, families, schools and audiology clinics.

The structure of the Educational Audiology course in the UK is that it runs over 6-7 weekends per year. Accommodation and food are included in the course fees. The Early Years course has a larger distance component and each modules meets only once.
The students are taught in English, and their assignments are also written in English. Should the students complete and pass all assignments and taught components then they shall be awarded a postgraduate diploma, and can go on to complete a dissertation for MA or MSc on a topic of choice which can be related to specific local requirements and issues in continental Europe.

We welcome students not only from the UK, but also from continental Europe and have had in the past worked with students from The Netherlands, Germany, Malta, Ireland, and Cyprus on our postgraduate courses. It is a good opportunity for all involved to share their experiences challenges and successes from their country and we look forward to continuing to learn together, while partnering with students from continental Europe.

Student feedback is central to course development. The following are quotes from periodic student written evaluations of our course:

‘The instructors are very knowledgeable and quite good at imparting their knowledge.’

“Explanations of practical activities are very clear using equipment and projectors to demonstrate.”

“Enjoyed relaxed approach to assessments which allowed me to thrive.”

“Coursework was very applicable, enabled me to do my job well and reminded me about all the parts of the job I really enjoy.”

For further details please contact courses@maryhare.org.uk or go to our website http://www.maryhareschool.org.uk/courses

UK: The Ear Foundation "Virtual" Conference

The Ear Foundation would like to invite you to take part in their virtual conference that will be available to view from the 9th of December 2015 until the 9th March 2016.

The topic is:

Flying or Failing? What makes the difference for children with mild to moderate hearing loss?

Children with a mild or moderate hearing loss have to cope with a range of difficulties that are often overlooked or underestimated. They are able to blend into school life and yet we know in a busy, often noisy classroom environment they will have greater difficulties in listening over distance and in noise than their hearing peers, this impacts on their academic performance and socially. But what support do they need? This Virtual Conference will be considering some of the research, confronting the implications of...
acoustics for learning in the classroom environment and suggesting practical strategies and ideas for supporting this group of children.

Speakers include audiologists, teachers of the deaf, speech therapists and educational audiologists from the UK and the United States. The issues being discussed will include the impact of having a mild to moderate loss, the research findings around the impact of early fitting of hearing aids and the practical support needed with families and in the classroom to ensure these children achieve their potential.

More details about this virtual conference programme, including how to sign up and join with delegates from around the globe are available on the Ear Foundations website. Here is the link:


Back to top

UK: Sounding Board for information and resources about cochlear implants

Sounding Board is a website for busy professionals and parents looking for information and resources about cochlear implants, part of The Ear Foundation's website and in conjunction with Advanced Bionics. It is accessed regularly from a range of people both in the UK and as far afield as China, Australia and Russia.

There are two main sections to explore, the Forum and the Resources section. Look on the forum for up to date queries from parents and professionals. Along with interactive queries the forum is a good source of archived information to browse through. There has been a lot of interest lately around how to make the most of wireless accessories and how to make sure classrooms are setting up sound field and personal FM systems correctly. Other topics include:

- Data logging
- Encouraging reading skills
- New resources for teenagers with CI’s
- Apps for deaf children with complex needs

The resource section in Sounding Board aims to hold the latest information about technology and resources. For example it has regularly updated list of websites, resources and apps that would be useful for working with children and teenagers with cochlear implants. It also has information about assessments and resources available in
other languages.

Join Sounding Board today to receive our monthly newsletter, this goes out to over 1400 people now:

http://soundingboard.earfoundation.org.uk/

**Here is a taster of some of the resources highlighted:**

Website of the month:
http://www.whereicanbeme.com/

This website has been developed to support a package of support developed to encourage social skills. However the website itself has some great resources that you can access and use. Look for the lovely section on Tips for teens on “How to have a conversation when you don’t know what to say?” and the page outlining the important role of listening in friendships.

Subscribe to Sounding Board if you would like more recommended resources sent to you monthly.

Back to top

ADVANCED BIONICS: Advanced Bionics Receives TÜV Approval for the Naida CI Q Series of Sound Processors

-- The world’s newest, most advanced family of sound processors for cochlear implant recipients is now approved in Europe --

VALENCIA, Calif., November 19, 2015 – Advanced Bionics (AB), a global leader in cochlear implant technology and a company of the Sonova Group, announced today that the Naida CI Q30 and Q90 sound processors* have received TÜV approval, following FDA and Health Canada approval earlier this year. The Naida CI Q Series delivers advanced technology in automation, noise reduction, phone use, and waterproof protection. AB’s newest version of fitting software, SoundWave™ 2.3, also received approval.

Working with Phonak, the world leader in hearing instruments, AB provides industry-leading solutions to help people with significant hearing loss communicate with confidence. The Naida CI Q Series of sound processors combines AB’s proven innovations with popular Phonak technology already relied on by hundreds of thousands of hearing aid users for better hearing in all situations.
The **Naída CI Q30** is the ideal hearing solution for recipients who value simplicity and ease of use. It provides the proven technology of AB, including ClearVoice™ speech enhancement technology, and the unmatched Phonak UltraZoom beamformer. When combined, these proven innovations deliver 70% better speech understanding in noise.1

The **Naída CI Q70** is the best hearing solution for recipients who value additional comfort and advanced bilateral features. In addition to offering all the features of the Naída CI Q30, the Q70 also includes Binaural VoiceStream Technology™, a unique set of bilateral and bimodal-ready*** features designed to optimize hearing with both ears in complex listening situations. Naída CI Q70 recipients also benefit from the new AutoSound™ OS technology that intelligently analyzes and automatically adapts to everyday listening environments so recipients hear their best wherever they go without having to change programs or adjust any settings. With the release of AB’s latest SoundWave™ fitting software, three new comfort features have also been introduced:

- **WindBlock** for automatically reducing wind noise to improve the listening experience in windy conditions
- **EchoBlock** for improving the listening experience in places that are reverberant, such as large assembly halls or places of worship
- **SoundRelax** for automatically dampening sudden loud sounds, such as slamming doors or clanging dishes, for a more enjoyable hearing experience

Following the previous-generation Q70, the **Naída CI Q90** is the premium solution for recipients who value the full line of features and accessories, including unique automatic capabilities, a more advanced beamformer and future EAS compatibility. The Naída CI Q90 offers all the features of the Naída CI Q70, plus:

- **UltraZoom**, now an automatic feature with Q90 and a new addition to AutoSound OS, for automatically detecting the presence of noise and focusing on sound to the front for improved speech understanding in noisy settings
- **StereoZoom**, a Phonak Binaural VoiceStream Technology™ feature, that uses all four microphones on both ears to extract a single voice from a noisy crowd and engage in a one-on-one conversation with less effort

“Everyone at AB is excited to offer the world’s most advanced family of sound processors,” said Hansjuerg Emch, President of Advanced Bionics and Group Vice President of the Sonova Medical Division within which AB resides. “Our unique collaboration with Phonak means that AB delivers technology no other manufacturer can match. Our new innovations prove once again that AB is the leader in industry firsts for the best possible hearing performance in the most difficult listening settings.”

In addition, the Naída CI Q Series of processors come with the following benefits to help recipients hear their best in any situation, during any activity:

- Most comprehensive set of options for comfort and confidence on the phone, including the new Phonak EasyCall accessory and Phonak DECT Phone
- Widest portfolio of wireless accessories for streaming speech and media, including the Phonak ComPilot, TVLink II, RemoteMic and Roger™ technology
- Unequaled swimmable accessories for hearing anywhere with the AquaMic™ headpiece, the industry’s only waterproof microphone and the AquaCase™ enclosure

Contact an AB representative to learn more about the Q Series and to find out which sound processors are available in your region. For more information about AB’s innovative hearing technology, visit AdvancedBionics.com, or follow AB on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram and Pinterest.

**About Advanced Bionics**

Advanced Bionics is a global leader in developing the most advanced cochlear implant systems in the world. Founded in 1993 and a subsidiary of the Sonova Group since 2009, AB develops cutting-edge cochlear implant technology that allows recipients to hear their best.
AB offers the most sophisticated cochlear implant system on the market, the HiResolution™ Bionic Ear System, with five times more sound resolution than its competitors, designed to help recipients hear in noisy settings and enjoy the full dimensions of music and tonal languages.

With sales in over 50 countries and a proven track record for developing high-performing, state-of-the-art products, AB's talented group of technologists and professionals from all over the world are driven to succeed, work with integrity and stay firmly committed to quality.

To learn more about AB and its innovative cochlear implant technology, please visit AdvancedBionics.com.

*Not all products listed are available in all territories and not all features are available in all devices.

**Not approved for pediatric use in the United States.

***Requires programming with next-generation SoundWave™ fitting software and the dedicated Phonak Naída hearing aid. Pending regulatory approval.

In September, we launched the Hungarian version of my book, "He Is Not Me", in Budapest. Special thanks to Ervin Bonecz, the President of the Hungarian Association of Cochlear Implants Users, for his hard work on the translation with the mobilisation of a dedicated group of translators for this project.

On September 9th, we held two events. One was at the British Embassy in Budapest, where we were welcomed by Theresa Bubbear (more information on http://heisnotme.com/download/hu.html), the acting Ambassador for the UK. In her introduction to the book, she talks of one of her happiest moments at the Embassy being when she saw a group of young Hungarian children with cochlear implants playing a huge range of percussion instruments. She goes on to declare that the book ’is another version of that joy. It’s a remarkable story of perseverance and love, of determination to overcome adversity and of dedication – from Stuart’s parents, from professionals, and from Stuart himself.’

In the evening, another event was held at the University of Budapest. With more than 150 people in attendance, I repeated the same presentation that I had done in the morning at the embassy, which was warmly received and followed up with nearly an hour of questions and answers. If anything, this served to confirm that there is still MUCH work to do in terms of raising awareness of cochlear implants abroad.
Again, thank you to Ervin Bonecz, his colleagues and our friends at the University of Budapest, for the consecutive translator who did an amazing job at both events, and to the staff at the British Embassy for helping us to make this happen - their collective efforts will change lives.

In 2016, the book is expected to be released in two additional languages. I urge other recipients to write their story, but if you know somebody who would like to do a voluntary translation of my book into their language, please contact me on author@heisnotme.com.

Stuart McNaughton

www.HeIsNotMe.com

COCHLEAR: Cochlear Family - United by sound. Connected by Cochlear.

Welcome to the Cochlear Family. Whether you’ve just been implanted or you started your hearing journey years ago, you’re entitled to all the benefits that come from being a member of a unique community. It’s a global community and it’s growing every day.

Be amongst the first to hear about new products and services that will help make your life easier. Get the latest information, tips, techniques and expert advice to help you make the most of your Cochlear™ products. Receive news from Cochlear, and connect with other Family members. Learn about local promotions and events in your area.

Enjoy the peace of mind that comes from knowing that we’re with you every step of the way. Membership to the Cochlear Family is free with no obligations.

In collaboration with your healthcare professionals, Cochlear is dedicated to helping improve your hearing journey.

For more information, please visit www.cochlear.com

Back to top

COCHLEAR: International cricket legend and Cochlear’s first Global Hearing Ambassador, Brett Lee unveils ‘Sounds of Cricket’ initiative
Cricket legend and Cochlear's first Global Hearing Ambassador, Brett Lee unveiled the Indian leg of the global initiative 'Sounds of Cricket' to spread awareness about the significant functional, social, emotional and economic impact of hearing loss on individuals and their families.

"I am delighted to be in India to help spread the message that if you have hearing loss there is technology that can help. I can't imagine cricket without sound: on the field not hearing the appeals and the crowd, off the field not hearing team mates, or at home not hearing family. I just can't imagine it", Brett Lee said while speaking at a press conference.

For more information on the initiative kindly visit the dedicated website www.soundsofcricket.com

**Back to top**

**COCHLEAR: Cochlear™ Wireless TV Streamer for Cochlear Nucleus® 6 users**
Enjoying TV with family and friends may be difficult for cochlear implant users when they cannot turn up the volume considerably or when background noise makes it hard for them to hear and focus on what others are saying.

The Cochlear™ Wireless TV Streamer delivers stereo sound directly to your sound processor from the television, stereo or other audio devices. You can enjoy watching television (without turning up the volume and disturbing others) and still take part in conversations with people next to you in the room. And if you are several Cochlear Implant users, you can all connect to the same TV Streamer.

The Cochlear Nucleus® Wireless TV Streamer is easy to use. It has no on/off button and does not need to be charged. The micro-USB at the back plugs straight into the power source and when the charger light is green, the TV Streamer is powered and ready to start streaming.

For more information please visit: [http://www.cochlear.com](http://www.cochlear.com)

COCHLEAR: Connecting Middle East to the world of sound

According to the WHO over 5% of the world’s population i.e., 360 million people, has disabling hearing loss (328 million adults and 32 million children). Although it affects hundreds of millions, it is unfortunately often ignored, limiting their ability to fully engage with the people and world around them. Today solutions are available for mild to the most profound forms of hearing loss, but it is primarily the lack of information in the public domain that prevents people from treating it at the right time. Raising awareness about hearing loss and its treatment in the general public is therefore no longer an option; it is a critical need of the hour.

To address this very issue in the region of Middle East, Cochlear recently announced the launch of the website [www.iwanttohear.com/me](http://www.iwanttohear.com/me) specifically catering to the Middle East audience. Available in both Arabic and English, the website has been developed to provide the reader with information about hearing loss, its causes and various treatment options in the region. Topics concerning hearing loss in children such as the need for early intervention, the need for new born hearing screening as well as the consideration of treating both ears when a child suffers from binaural hearing loss, are also discussed. In addition to detailed FAQ information, the website also allows the reader to address their queries directly to a volunteer doctor through an online form.

If you know someone who could benefit from this information in the Middle East region, do connect them to this website. Together with your support, Cochlear looks forward to connecting people to the wonderful world of sound.
COCHLEAR: All Cochlear™ Nucleus® users, including those with a CI22 cochlear implant series can now upgrade to Cochlear Nucleus 6 Sound Processor

With Nucleus® 6 you can enjoy substantially improved hearing performance and ease of use with SmartSound® iQ, Aqua+ and Wireless Accessories, all delivered in the smallest sound processor ever.

To make a fashion statement or to better conceal the sound processor under the hair, the Nucleus 6 Sound Processor colour pallet now includes white.

Why upgrade?

The Nucleus 6 Sound Processor is our most advanced hearing solution to date, designed with a clear purpose – to help you enjoy simply smarter hearing.

Simply designed for your needs

- Small, light and ergonomically designed for all day wearing comfort
- With its new water repellent coating, you can relax around water and be confident your system is protected
- Compatible with the new Aqua+ Accessory, which allows you to swim or dive

Smarter hearing made easy

- SmartSound iQ, automatically adapts to your environment for a better hearing experience
- Easily manage your sound processor with the remote assistant
- Stream music, TV or hands free phone calls directly to your sound processor

What Nucleus 6 upgrade users say:

- "I cannot even feel it on my ear!!"
- "Amazing that I was not disturbed at all by the noise at the restaurants"
- "I can hear really well on the phone!"
- "Music direct into my ear - how cool!"

See for yourself how upgrading to Nucleus 6 changed the life of these cochlear implant...
MED-EL launches new issue of EXPLOREMAGAZINE – “Explorekids”

Innsbruck, Austria, December, 2015 – “ExploreKids” the new issue of the MED-EL EXPLOREMAGAZINE delves into topics surrounding child growth, with a particular focus on how hearing is key to successful development and progress from early years into adulthood. From its years of assisting children around the world to hear, MED-EL has broad experience in both bringing the gift of sound to children’s ears and helping them to speak for themselves.

Children learn to hear and speak more naturally the earlier they receive a hearing implant – especially before they start to speak and regardless whether it is a cochlear-, middle ear
or bone conduction implant. The later a child is implanted, the more intensive the rehabilitation process will be to reach their full communication potential. If children cannot hear properly, it makes it more difficult for them to interact with their environment, which can limit future opportunities, from friendship to education and career.

The company’s extensive research into worldwide speech pathology and learning to hear has led to the development of different approaches to certain language groups. An article in ExploreKids looks at how hearing-impaired children with CIs learning tonal languages (e.g. Vietnamese, Chinese) will use different strategies to develop their communication skills. Furthermore, MED-EL gives five tips to help children progress, including encouraging imaginative play, enunciating each word so that the child learns proper pronunciation and limiting technology in order to focus on more interactive activities.

**Hearing loss**

But hearing loss doesn’t only concern and affect children. More and more adults seek out solutions to partial or complete hearing loss, often due to environmental factors. Particularly underestimated are the consequences of working in noisy conditions as well as exposure to loud noises occasionally or over a long period of time. The sooner hearing loss is discovered, the more effectively it can be treated. It is important that anybody noticing any hearing deterioration seeks the advice of a doctor immediately. Gradual hearing loss should never be underestimated. ENT specialists use professional methods to quickly check the function of a person’s hearing abilities and can offer tips and tricks on how best to deal with noise.

The Explorekids can be ordered free of charge as a printed edition from explore@medel.com or downloaded online at medel.com/explore.

More about MED-EL hearing solutions can be found here: medel.com

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**MED-EL: Modern Help with Tinnitus**

That ringing, hissing, humming, buzzing or whistling noise in the ear – one in four of us have experienced irritating ear noise. In fact, more than eleven million people in Germany suffer from tinnitus while up to 80 per cent of people with hearing loss complain about frequently chronic tinnitus. 1. If this situation goes untreated, it can seriously impair a person’s quality of life. However scientists in a research team at the University Hospital of Antwerp (UZA) have confirmed that a cochlear implant (CI) can provide lasting relief for
The causes

Tinnitus is a symptom of various disorders in the ear caused, for example, by an infection of the middle ear or sudden hearing loss resulting from noise trauma. This can result in irreparable damage to the inner and outer hair cells in the cochlea. "Tinnitus is caused by the brain processing acoustic signals incorrectly. Hissing in the nerve cells is normally filtered out in a healthy ear. When this no longer functions correctly, the noises become more apparent, resulting in irritating noises in the ear," explains Professor Paul van de Heyning, Head of the ENT Department and Co-Director of the Department for Neuromodulation at the University Hospital of Antwerp. "Stress and psychological strain can further aggravate ear noise."

Relativising perception

There is no medication that can eliminate tinnitus completely and permanently. When necessary, medication that stimulates circulation is prescribed for a weaker form of tinnitus, or when it first occurs. In some cases so-called psychoactive drugs, whose effect on the central nervous system can reduce the amplification of tinnitus that emanates from there, may help to improve chronic tinnitus.

Tinnitus retraining therapy (TRT) is targeted at relativising the perception of tinnitus and consists of various modules. Counselling through personal psychological support helps to identify stress-reinforcing habits and to develop coping strategies. A further option involves apparatus-related methods. Noise generators produce a soft, broadband noise in the ear for several hours a day. The intention is to induce the brain in this way to interpret tinnitus as something unimportant, to acustom the brain to it and to eliminate it from conscious perception. The redirection of attention can also be achieved through optical stimulation, listening to music or though hypnotic therapy.

Cochlear implant provision for single-sided deafness and tinnitus

If tinnitus occurs in those suffering from single-sided deafness, an operation to provide a cochlear implant is a promising form of treatment. A research team from the University Hospital of Antwerp led by Professor Paul van de Heyning presented the findings from several long-term studies last year. They provide evidence for the positive effect of cochlear implants for treating patients with single-sided deafness (SSD), not just in connection with speech comprehension but also with regard to the treatment of tinnitus.

All study participants confirm a lasting reduction in tinnitus volume from loud to quiet. In some cases the reduction was even greater. "Volume control with an active CI is stable and therefore offers lasting relief. This opens up a whole new indication for treatment with cochlear implants," explains Patrick D’Haese, Corporate Director of Awareness and Public Affairs at MED-EL. Hearing implants from MED-EL were used in the study. In 2013 MED-EL was the first supplier to be awarded the CE mark for the marketing of cochlear implants for single-sided deafness in children and adults.

More information about MED-EL can be found at

http://www.medel.com/int/

1. Source: http://www.oessh.or.at/hoerspuren/tinnitus


Back to top

MED-EL: Dual-Language Learning for Children with Hearing Loss
MED-EL is committed to supporting recipients of hearing implants, their families and the professionals in the rehabilitation process, by offering a wide range of resources in many different languages.

Considering the multicultural context in many countries around the globe and the need of resources for professionals in their work with patients & families with hearing loss from a multilingual background, MED-EL supported the development of a new resource in the field: Dual Language Learning for Children with Hearing Loss.

MED-EL recognizes that teachers, speech-language pathologists and audiologists are working with more and more families who are either bilingual, multilingual or who do not speak the majority language.

The book was developed in the USA by Michael Douglas, a Speech and Language Pathologist with vast experience in working with dual-language learners and their families. Currently Michael is director of the Mama Lere Hearing School which is associated with Vanderbilt University Medical Centre located in Nashville, Tennessee. Michael worked from 2005-2012 as the director of the Speech Clinic and director of the Intervention Services at the Centre for Hearing and Speech in Houston, Texas. Michael has a passion for teaching, lecturing and writing about the various ways children with hearing loss who need to learn more than one language, can be successful.

The purpose of the resource is to assist professionals in their work with models of
assessment, intervention and strategies. Guidelines for developing a program for bilingual children are included. The book is relevant to clinicians providing intervention for individuals, and in group settings.

The resource includes five sections:

1. The Assessment section provides guidance for completing assessments for this population. This includes taking a case history, establishing a child’s linguistic profile, determining the languages to be assessed and conducting appropriate assessments.

2. The Intervention section covers in detail a range of bilingual intervention models: simultaneous bilingual learning, sequential bilingual learning and dual language learning in educational environments.

3. The Program Considerations, Development and Planning section guides the development of the bilingual program. Aspects addressed include promoting the child parent bond, facilitating adequate social-emotional development, maintaining intergenerational family connections and empowering parents to provide the rich linguistic experiences required for a strong language foundation.

4. The Case studies section provides 5 case studies that are examples of children who have been involved in dual language programs. It reviews their assessment and intervention plans and their educational programs.

5. The Appendices included at the end of the book are reproducible materials to further assist the clinicians working with this population in planning their intervention program.

We hope that professionals will find this resource useful in their work with children with hearing loss and their families, who come from a multilingual background. For more support please check our website: www.medel.com and for more rehabilitation useful resources, please check our online product catalogue http://s3.medel.com/downloadmanager/downloads/bridge_2013/22031.pdf or contact the nearest MED-EL office.

Back to top

MED-EL: HearPeers Mentor Programme launched by MED-EL UK
MED-EL’s HearPeers Mentor Programme was launched in the UK in November 2015. It is designed to support people who are considering a hearing implant for themselves or a family member, as well as provide ongoing advice for new implant recipients.

**Why the HearPeers Mentor Programme was set up**

Opting for a hearing implant can be a difficult decision. There is an overwhelming quantity of information on the internet that can sometimes seem more confusing than helpful. By connecting with an existing hearing implant user who understands their concerns first hand, people considering an implant can gain clear advice and support that complements the information provided by their CI team. It is helpful to be able to talk to someone who has made this journey themselves or has experienced their child/family member going through a similar procedure. By informing, inspiring and raising awareness about hearing implants, mentors aim to empower candidates and their families to make the best decisions possible in conjunction with their CI team’s advice.

**How the HearPeers Mentor Programme helps**

By interacting with a HearPeers Mentor, mentees can get a realistic understanding of life with a hearing implant and discover tips to help them in their daily lives.

Key benefits for mentees include:

- The potential to connect with a HearPeers Mentor by email or in person at UK events and to chat with other hearing implant recipients in the HearPeers online forum
- The opportunity to share any concerns or questions with people who have experience of life with an implant as well as request everyday practical tips

**The role of a HearPeers Mentor**

A HearPeers Mentor can connect with candidates, newly implanted users, and their families online or at events across the UK, providing support by answering questions and sharing their own knowledge and experience. HearPeers Mentors are volunteers.

To find out more about the programme, sign up or volunteer to be a mentor, please visit the HearPeers website at: [www.hearpeers.com/uk](http://www.hearpeers.com/uk).

Back to top