

NEWSLETTER

MAGNETISE

Summer 2014

www.hccig.org.uk



Report from the Chair

Welcome to the HCCIG's summer edition and hope that you have enjoyed some of the good weather so far. A good afternoon tea was held at the Southgate Beaumont North London on the 9th July with Brian Welshe Marketing Manager from Cochlear who spoke on the new Launch of Nucleus Profile with Contour Advanced Electrode (CI512) and also Jenny Dursley Clinical specialist at Cochlear who answered the questions that members had about their own devices. Feedback from the member's was that they would like more of these sessions to enable them to understand more about their CI devices. The wine bar was well attended with lots of discussions on various subjects. Please note that I have changed the next wine bar date from 16th September to the following week 23rd September 2014, so please do make a note in your diary.

Newsletter Updates

Please submit articles for the next publication of Magnetise by the 30th September 2014 to hccigs@gmail.com. Your newsletter will be emailed to you unless you require a hard copy, in this case please do let us know.

Social Media Update

Website

Please do remember if there is anything that you feel should be displayed on our website to get in touch. Guest blogger contributions welcome, email hccig@gmail.com.

Facebook

To find us on Facebook, search Home Counties Cochlear Implant Group, and feel free to add comments, photos, updates on any members news.

Twitter

We are still tweeting away on Twitter at HCCIG, please do follow us.

Christmas Weekend

This years Christmas weekend away takes place at The Afton Hotel, Eastbourne (www.aftonhotel.com.) It is from Friday 5th December 2014 until Sunday 7th December 2014. Members are welcome to attend all or as much of the weekend as they wish. Past Christmas events have proved well attended, highly enjoyable and most informative.

Please do let us know if you are interested in attending this years weekend away by emailing Jenny now on hccigs@gmail.com. For more details and exact arrangements of the weekend please see our website, www.hccig.org.uk.

Deadline for bookings is on 31st July 2014.

Dates For Your Diary

2014

WINE BAR

Tuesday 23rd September 2014, Advanced Bionics will be attending this event.

Tuesday 11th November 2014,
6pm till 9pm,
Brookes Brothers, Wine Bar, 33-35
Brooke Street, Holborn, London, EC1N
7RS.

Nearest Tube Chancery Lane (Central line) exit 2. Just come along, join in and catch up on the latest CI chat.

AFTERNOON TEA

Wednesday 8th October 2014 from 4pm till 7pm, at Southgate Beaumont Barchester Healthcare, 15 Cannon Hill, Old Southgate, London, N14 7DJ. A stunning grade 11 listed home, in beautiful grounds, another chance to meet other CI users; find out more about Implants from the people that use them. Everyone is welcome, ample of Car Parking spaces.

END OF YEAR LUNCH

We will be arranging an end of year lunch on Saturday 29th November at the Almaf Restaurant. Please save the date.



Manufacturers News



You no longer have to be a fish out of water!

With the new waterproof solutions available* from Cochlear, you can enjoy a whole new world of water activities, no matter which Behind-the-Ear sound processor you have. There is no need for additional wires or cases. So what are you waiting for?

Cochlear Aqua +

It is a soft, flexible silicone sleeve that tightly fits over a Nucleus 6 or 5 sound processor (with rechargeable batteries) with an Aqua+ Coil. You can now enjoy more active water activities such as snorkelling, diving and swimming.

A water protection rating of IP68 is your invitation to get wet without cumbersome cases or annoying cables – the Aqua+ sits comfortably on the ear and can be submerged under 3 metres of water for up to 2 hours.

Cochlear Reusable Aqua Accessory

The Aqua Accessory is now available as a reusable solution that completely seals in Freedom, Nucleus 5 or 6 sound processors (with rechargeable batteries). These waterproof solutions provides peace of mind for active water activities.

For your everyday needs such as walking in the rain, enjoying a run and splashing in the bath your Nucleus 6 is already protected by its water repellent nano-coating. Announcement of availability will be published on Cochlear UK Facebook and Twitter.

*Pending CE marking

Launch of Nucleus® Profile™ with Contour Advance® Electrode

Cochlear is pleased to announce the launch of the Nucleus Profile implant with Contour Advance Electrode (CI512), which has just received regulatory approval in Europe. This implant is now available for all UK surgeons to use. Surgeons will be familiar with the Profile as it is based on the very popular CI500 series of implants which was launched in November 2009.

The Profile with Contour Advance Electrode is the thinnest cochlear implant in the world at 3.9mm. This makes it easier to implant and more discreet to wear for patients of all ages but especially young children.

The picture below the Profile sits just 1.7mm above the bone surface when implanted. This means that hats and helmets are much more accessible for adults and children. This compares to a figure of 4.5mm for the next thinnest implant available.

More details can be found on the Profile and other product updates from Cochlear UK at our Facebook page:

[facebook.com/cochlearuk](https://www.facebook.com/cochlearuk).

COCHLEAR UK GRAEME CLARK SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Could you apply for the £6,000 education scholarship?

The Cochlear UK Graeme Clark Scholarship Award provides college age students a grant for tuition, for students either currently completing their final year of school and who have been accepted onto a university or other tertiary education course, mature-aged students who have been accepted onto a university or other tertiary education course, or students currently undertaking a university degree or other tertiary education.

The award was established in 2002 in honour of Professor Graeme Clark to thank him for his lifelong pursuit of finding a solution for the hearing impaired and his pioneering work in the field of cochlear implant technology. Professor Clark was the Professor of the Department of Otolaryngology at the University of Melbourne, and he invented the world's first multi-channel cochlear implant over 32 years ago.

The deadline for applications is 31st October 2014.

To find out more visit www.cochlear.com or email kking@cochlear.com

MED-EL

Bonebridge bone conduction implant now approved for children

MED-EL is pleased to announce that Bonebridge, the world's first active bone conduction implant, has now been approved for children over five years old. Bonebridge was first introduced for adults with conductive hearing loss or single-sided deafness two years ago.

Hearing through the bones of the skull

Like all MED-EL hearing implant systems, Bonebridge has two components: internally, the active implant and externally the audio processor.

The active implant converts the signals from the audio processor into mechanical vibrations. These are transferred to the bones of the skull, which conduct the sound waves to the inner ear.

What makes Bonebridge different from other systems using bone conduction?

Bonebridge is the 1st bone conduction implant system to use transcutaneous, intact-skin technology. This means that the implant is positioned completely under the surface of the skin, so that the protective role of the skin is fully preserved. This is especially important for children because it means that there is no risk of external infection.

Moreover, Bonebridge is a highly cosmetic solution as the implant is

completely invisible under the intact skin. The audio processor is barely visible as it is worn below the hair, and the ear canal remains completely free.

One factor that is especially important for children is that MED-EL implant users can continue to benefit from technological innovation in the future, because the external audio processor is backwards compatible, this means it can easily be replaced with the latest version.

In March 2014 MED-EL was awarded the Austrian State Prize for Innovation for its development of the Bonebridge bone conduction implant. For more information about this award winning technology and the full range of MED-EL hearing implant solutions, visit: www.medel.com.

MED-EL founders nominated for European Inventor Award 2014

Dr. Ingeborg and Prof. Dr. Erwin Hochmair, the founders of MED-EL, have been nominated for the 2014 European Inventor Award in the lifetime achievement category. The European Inventor Award was introduced by the European Patent Office (EPO) in 2006 to honour scientists worldwide who have made substantial contributions to technological progress and economic growth.

The EPO nomination of Dr. Ingeborg and Prof. Dr. Erwin Hochmair is in recognition of their pioneering work in the field of hearing implants. Since the 1970s when the founders of MED-EL developed and launched the first micro-electronic multi-channel cochlear implant, their innovative technology has opened the world of hearing to over 100,000 people with hearing loss worldwide.

However, this is not the first time that the work of Dr. Ingeborg Hochmair

has been honoured. In September 2013 she was awarded the prestigious Lasker-DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award for the development of the modern cochlear implant.

The official presentation of the European Inventor Award will take place on 17th June in Berlin, Germany. For more information, visit:

www.epo.org/european-inventor

Make waves with MED-EL's WaterWear for the RONDO



Swim or bathe with MED-EL's new WaterWear for the RONDO audio processor and enjoy the sounds of the sea like never before. WaterWear is a brand new optional accessory for MED-EL's single-unit processor which allows cochlear implant users to wear the RONDO while bathing, swimming or taking part in other water sports.

WaterWear for the RONDO consists of a tight transparent cover which is simply put over the processor and closed with an adhesive strip. The adhesive strip provides a

tight seal and prevents any dust or water from entering the audio processor. WaterWear has an IP68 protection rating for water and dust, meaning it is fully submersible in natural, chlorinated or salt water.

The sleek, skin-tight cover is also designed for optimal microphone performance, so you'll be able to hear your best no matter where you go.

WaterWear comes in a pack of three WaterWear covers and nine adhesive strips. Each WaterWear cover may be used up to three times; while the adhesive strips are designed for single-use.

If you are swimming in open water or participating in very strenuous activities you can additionally wear the MED-EL Sports Headband to provide optimal fixation of the audio processor.

Both WaterWear and the MED-EL Sports Headband are available from the MED-EL UK Shop at www.medel.com/uk/shop. To place an order simply email orders@medel.co.uk and we will contact you to discuss the items you would like to buy.

With WaterWear for the RONDO, you're ready to make waves. For more information about WaterWear and other MED-EL products and accessories, visit www.medel.com.

MED-EL Music Grants 2014 – Closing Date Fast Approaching!

Last year's lucky winners Claire and Adam have really enjoyed their piano lessons, but it will soon be time to pick this year's budding musicians! So if you would like to learn how to tinkle the ivories or have a blast on the trumpet and you are the recipient of a MED-EL hearing implant, why not apply for this year's MED-EL music grant awards. There are two categories of grant: the under 19s and the 19s and over.

The winners will each receive a musical instrument of their choice up to the value of £500 and MED-EL will pay for one 30 minute lesson per week for one year. There is also a £30 allowance for sheet music. Travel expenses will not be covered. All tuition fees will be paid directly to the music tutor. The closing date for applications is fast approaching, so make sure you submit your application before the deadline of **29th July 2014**.

For more information, terms and conditions, and an online application form visit: www.medel.com/uk/musicgrant, alternatively please email; conferences@medel.co.uk for a paper application form or call the marketing team on 01226 242874. A final piece of advice from Claire Ingham, our 2013 over 19s winner: "If you've ever harboured a secret wish to learn to play a musical instrument, go for it – this is a great opportunity to get started. Good luck everyone!"

In Sync with Natural Hearing: The SYNCHRONY System from MED-EL

MED-EL is pleased to announce the launch of SYNCHRONY – a new groundbreaking cochlear implant system created to bring together the latest implant and processor technologies for natural hearing in any listening environment. This revolutionary new system includes the SYNCHRONY implant, which is MRI compatible to 3.0 Tesla, and the SONNET audio processor, specifically designed to mimic the processing of sound more naturally.

Designed for superior MRI safety

Due to its unique and patented rotatable self-aligning internal magnet, the new SYNCHRONY implant allows MRI scans up to 3.0 Tesla, the current UK MRI standard for high resolution scans, without the need for repeat surgeries to remove and then replace the magnet. This represents the highest MRI safety on the market, and makes medical check-ups much more comfortable, quicker and safer for cochlear implant users.

With the SYNCHRONY implant, users will have the peace of mind knowing they've chosen the only implant that delivers exceptional hearing performance, outstanding reliability and unmatched MRI safety. The new SYNCHRONY implant's compact design also means it is the smallest and lightest titanium cochlear implant currently available – making it the ideal choice for people of all ages.

More natural hearing with advanced technologies

The new SONNET audio processor offers the latest generation of automatic sound management (ASM 2.0) representing MED-EL's goal to achieve more natural hearing and effortless listening for individuals with severe to profound sensorineural hearing loss.

It features:

- Dual microphone technology
- The latest advances in noise reduction technology
- Microphone directionality
- Wind noise reduction
- Automatic volume control
- Built in wireless connectivity
- Water resistant technology

The audio processor also actively adapts to any listening environment to ensure optimal hearing performance without compromise to its 60-hour battery life.

The SONNET EAS audio processor is now also available with acoustic amplification to provide Electric Acoustic Stimulation (EAS) for candidates with partial deafness. Both the Sonnet and The Sonnet EAS are fully compatible with the last 20 years of MED-EL cochlear implant technology.

The RONDO single-unit audio processor is also available as an external component of the SYNCHRONY cochlear implant system. And with the new Water-Wear optional accessory, the RONDO becomes fully submersible in water – ideal for bathing, swimming, and enjoying water sports.

Powered by Triformance

For the most natural hearing possible, MED-EL cochlear implants are powered by Triformance, the combination of three key technologies: Complete Cochlear Coverage, FineHearing and Structure Preservation.

For more information please visit www.medel.com.



ADVANCED BIONICS LAUNCHES WORLD'S FIRST WATERPROOF CASE FOR COCHLEAR IMPLANT RECIPIENTS

Advanced Bionics (AB), a global leader in cochlear implant technology and a company of the Sonova Group, has announced the approval of the AquaCase™* container in Europe and Canada. Designed for use with the Naída CI Q70 (Naída CI) sound processor, the AquaCase accessory is the world's first and only swimmable, waterproof case for cochlear implant recipients.

From bath time, swimming and snorkeling, to skiing, trail hiking, mountain biking, mud running and rock climbing, the durable AquaCase offers recipients uncompromised hearing performance and peace of mind during even the most rugged adventures. To ensure it safeguards the Naída CI sound processor in any envi-

ronment, the AquaCase features a security lock and special corrosion-resistant materials that stand up to water, dirt, mud, sand, and other grime. Recipients can wear it just how they like it with a compatible clip, armband**, and lanyard.

“We understand how important hearing in and around water is for recipients and their families. First and foremost for safety and peace of mind, but parents also want their children to fully engage with their friends while playing in the pool or the surf,” said Mark Downing, Director of Product Management and Surgical



Support. “AB is always thinking of new ways to give our recipients hearing during life's adventures. This small, secure and incredibly durable case is another example of our commit-

ment to the best hearing performance in every environment.”

Advanced Bionics is the only company that enables cochlear implant recipients to enjoy fully waterproof hearing with no compromise in performance. The AquaCase accessory is designed for use with the swimmable AquaMic™, AB's unique, IP 68-rated microphone. The AquaMic is 100% waterproof and does not require a bag or enclosure that significantly reduces sound quality. Over the last three years, the AquaMic has delivered great performance to thousands of Neptune™ processor users; now it is available for recipients who use Naída CI processors as well. Delivering the industry's only head-piece-integrated microphone, AB allows Naída CI and Neptune™ recipients to wear the processor off the ear in the preferred location for any activity.

“At Advanced Bionics, we have always believed that hearing in and under water without compromising performance is essential to improve the quality of life for peo-

ple with cochlear implants,” said Hansjuerg Emch, President of Advanced Bionics and Group Vice President of the Sonova Medical Division where AB resides. “We are very pleased that with the introduction of the AquaCase for Naída CI, waterproof hearing is now available for the world's most advanced behind-the-ear processor.”



The AquaCase accessory has been developed for use with the Naída CI sound processor available only from Advanced Bionics. With Naída CI, AB delivers a quantum leap forward in performance and wireless connectivity with a chic, modern instyle™ design.

To learn more about the new AquaCase from Advanced Bionics, please contact us at:

info.uk@AdvancedBionics.com

Research Projects



PAID EXPERIMENT AT UCL

This project is a small part in a large aim to find out where differences in speech processing abilities in cochlear implant users occur in the brain. As we know, cochlear implant users have a wide range of speech recognition outcomes, even for those who appear to have had equal success during implant insertion. Why do we find this difference? Where does it come from? This study uses EEG (electroencephalography) to record how the auditory cortex in the brain responds to a variety of speech sounds. Participants need to have one or two cochlear implants (with or without a hearing aid on the opposite ear) and should be post-lingually deafened. Participants will receive payment of £8/hour for their time in the lab.

If you are interested in taking part or would like some more information please do not hesitate to contact Emma Brint by email at emma.brint.11@ucl.ac.uk, phone on +44 (0) 20 7679 4041 or by post to:

Emma Brint
Chandler House
2 Wakefield St
London WC1N 1PF

UCL EAR INSTITUTE

Validating Speech Perception Tests using "the Otocube" test set up. Information Sheet

We would like to invite you to take part in a study. Please take time to read the following information carefully. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Thank you for reading this.

What is the purpose of the study?

We would like to conduct some speech perception tests in two different test set ups to determine if we get the same results with both. One test set up is a 9-loudspeaker room and one is a new loudspeaker in a box designed for cochlear implants. This is a way to provide some degree of soundproofing and if it works it will enable children with hearing aids to be tested in schools and in clinics at many locations, rather than being restricted to specialised test set ups.

Do I have to take part?

It is up to you to decide. We will describe the study and then ask you to sign a consent form to show you agree to take part. You are free to withdraw at any time, without giving a reason. If you do withdraw from the study any stored data samples will be destroyed.

What will I have to do?

You will be invited to attend one test session at the Ear Institute. Each session should last no more than two hours. A range of speech games will be played using the large test set up and also with the speaker in a box. £10 cash will be given for your time and travel expenses will be reimbursed.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

There are no serious risks involved. You may feel fatigued in test sessions but we will have short breaks.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

This study offers no direct benefits, but the results may help to improve speech perception testing in schools and in clinical settings.

Confidentiality

No personal data will be collected, it will be completely anonymised and collected and stored in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and UCL's Data Protection Policy. The data will be held for 5 years and disposed of in a secure manner.

Contact for further information?

If you wish to have any further information please contact:

Dr Debi Vickers
Senior Lecturer and Principal Investigator
UCL Ear Institute
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WC1X 8EE
020 7679 8889

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Email: pavandeep.chohan.13@ucl.ac.uk

HCCIG Summer Party 19th July 2014

Yesterday's HCCIG's was a terrific turnout! It was held in the deep level shelter/catacombs of the Amalfi restaurant off old Compton Street which made for interesting surroundings whilst we ate our 3 course meal.

The HCCIG gatherings are always unique and special. Unique because we have all lived with hearing loss at some point in our lives and understand all too well how it feels, and special because the desire to include and involve each other in conversation all around makes for an uplifting and fun time for everyone concerned.

If you are a potential candidate for a cochlear implant this is a great way to meet other CI Users and hear from them first hand what living with a bionic ear entails. The support this group offers is invaluable. There are also volunteer mentors who can help you with your journey and help answer your questions. Do come along to the next event!

Michele Chemaly



STAGETEXT is a registered charity which provides captioning and live speech-to-text services in theatres, museums, galleries and other arts and cultural venues.

Theatre captioning is similar to television subtitling and gives deaf, deafened and hard of hearing theatregoers access to live performance. We help theatres to develop new audiences, bring former audiences back into the theatre, and provide a more enjoyable experience for current audiences, whether they have a hearing loss or not. For more information please see website, <http://www.stagetext.org>

Disclaimer - HCCIG A Voluntary Group Funded by Members

HCCIG accept no responsibility for any information relating to third party organisations featured in this newsletter. While HCCIG makes every effort to ensure details are accurate, we advise our members to check these with the organisations concerned. HCCIG does not endorse any product or service of, nor does it verify any preferential treatment, offered by the organisations. All queries should be directed to them. Certain of the offers and services featured in this newsletter are only available to customers of those organisations. HCCIG does not provide medical advice or make recommendations with regard to any particular implant and no article in this newsletter should be construed as doing so.

Contacting HCCIG

Please would you only contact Jenny on HCCIG business during working hours of 9.00am to 5.00pm. Monday to Friday. This is to allow Jenny some free time with her family. Thank you.

Trustees

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Please be aware UCLH change of contact details below:

Royal National Throat Nose and Ear Hospital,
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Gray's Inn Road,
London,
WC1X 8DA

Cochlear Implant Department

Telephone: 020 3456 5001/2

Fax: 020 3456 5003

Text: 07899 748 917 (Strictly text only)

Email: cirepairs@uclh.nhs.uk (battery and repairs). Repairs: 020 3456 5382

Adult Programme

Telephone: 020 3456 5001

Email: cioffice@uclh.nhs.uk

Paediatric Programme

Telephone: 020 3456 5002

Email: cioffice@uclh.nhs.uk

Batteries are sent out by 2nd class post on Mondays and Thursdays. You need to call us before 12pm.