



## Home Counties Cochlear Implant Group

### Winter 2010

#### **Report from Chair**

Welcome to the Winter edition of HCCIG Magnetise which we hope you will find both interesting and informative. Thank you to those who have renewed their membership and the kind donations. Please also remember if you change your email address do let us know.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Jenny Burdge

#### **Newsletter update**

Please submit articles for publication in the newsletter to [hccig@ymail.com](mailto:hccig@ymail.com)

Your newsletter can be emailed to you instead, to save on printing costs – just let us know.

#### **Social media updates**

##### **Website**

This has been revamped! If there is anything else you would like to see on the website, be sure to let us know. Guest blogger contributions will be posted to the website; please email your blog post and photos to [hccig@ymail.com](mailto:hccig@ymail.com)

##### **Facebook**

HCCIG is now on Facebook. You can find us under Home Counties Cochlear Implant Group. Feel free to post links to your blog articles there and any CI-related news.

##### **Twitter**

You can find us tweeting on Twitter at @HCCIG

HCCIG contact details are on the website at <http://hccig.org.uk/contact/>

[www.hccig.org.uk](http://www.hccig.org.uk)

#### **Dates for your Diary**

##### **Wine Bar**

##### **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

6pm to 9pm, Brookes Brothers, Wine Bar 33 – 35 Brooke Street, Holborn London EC1N 7RS  
Nearest tube Chancery Lane Exit 2  
Just come along, join in and catch up on the latest CI chat.

##### **Coffee Bar**

##### **First Wednesday of every month 1–3pm**

##### **1<sup>st</sup> December 2010**

##### **2<sup>nd</sup> February 2011**

36 Brigadier Hill, Enfield, EN2 0NQ  
Child friendly, low cost coffee and snack bar, with free chat! Meet other CI users; find out more about Implants from people who have them. Everyone is welcome.

##### **Christmas Dinner Weekend**

##### **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> & Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December**

Haddon Hall Hotel Eastbourne  
A great time was had by all last year. This year, we already have over 30 places booked. If you wish to take part, be sure to be quick to sign up, as places are filling up fast! Should you only wish to come for the Christmas Dinner on the Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December do get in touch with Jenny.

##### **HCCIG Open Day**

##### **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2011 12-4pm**

Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead.  
Open meeting with Speaker and "Wire Surgery".

##### **Summer BBQ**

##### **Saturday 2nd July 2011**

Leahoe Social Club, Hertford.  
Pay as you eat BBQ, buffet luncheon, licenced bar, pool and billiard table. Cost: £5 per attendee. Further details to be published later on.

##### **Canal boat trip 2011**

##### **TBA**

The mooring is found by following the signs towards Harlow Town Station. The date will be confirmed in 2011.



## Cochlear™ Advocacy Programme

### **Volunteer Advocates - A network of support**

Most of our Nucleus cochlear implant recipients start their journey by reaching out to someone who has had a similar experience with hearing loss. It's often a great benefit to learn from someone who understands and has been through this same experience and our Volunteer Advocates are here to help. They offer support and impartial information to individuals, parents and their families from the process of assessment and implantation, all the way through to rehabilitation and beyond. Answering questions, dispelling myths and allaying fears, helping individuals to have a better understanding of the implant process and complementing the role of professionals. All our Advocates are fully trained, of all ages and from a range of backgrounds that reflect the community they work within.

### **Connect and communicate**

If you are considering an implant and seeking advice or would like to learn practical day to day tips, our Advocacy Specialist, Kate King can connect you with an Advocate who has first hand experience of living with a Nucleus cochlear implant.

You can also read about our Advocate's experiences by visiting Drum-online: <http://www.drum-online.com/ci/help--advice.aspx>

Sharing stories with others will help you understand what to expect. To contact Kate please telephone 07793 652182 or email: [kking@cochlear.com](mailto:kking@cochlear.com).

Connect with us today!

### **Professor Graeme Clark, Father of the Multi-channel Implant Visits London and receives the Lister Medal**

Whilst in the UK to receive the most distinguished award in surgery – the prestigious Lister Medal – Professor Graeme Clark also visited St George's Hospital London where he addressed a Cochlear™ meeting of surgeons.

With an extraordinary gentleness and humility that surely signifies a truly great man, Professor Clark paid tribute to all those who have assisted him in his pioneering work in the field of cochlear implant technology and in his lifelong commitment to finding a solution for people with hearing loss.

"I am very honoured to receive such a prominent award on behalf of all the researchers who are engaged in the fight against deafness," he said.

"I never conceived of being awarded this medal. I feel there is reflected honour in having cochlear implantation recognised too which is wonderful. It has been a huge team effort and has really shown how working with people across lots of different disciplines has enabled a real advance in medicine that has changed people's lives."

Professor Clark paid tribute to Cochlear as a company, which he says under the leadership of Paul Trainor of Telectronics in Australia just over 30 years ago had the vision, expertise and drive to take forward his ideas and bring them to the marketplace.

Whilst at St George's Hospital, Professor Clark met many of the children implanted at the hospital, including the first recipient, as well as the most recent. Talking to the children he said, "I always believed the implant would work, but I didn't realise how well it would work; it's has been the most wonderful surprise really. I still get tears in my eyes when I see what a difference a cochlear implant can make to someone."

To read more about Professor Clarke's visit subscribe to the Cochlear™ Club by visiting our website: [www.cochlear.co.uk](http://www.cochlear.co.uk)

## **Cochlear : Product Announcements**

### Large Ear Hooks

To further enhance the range of retention solutions available to CP800 Series recipients, we are pleased to announce availability of the large CP800 Series ear hook. The product is designed to meet the needs of recipients with large ear sizes who find the standard ear hook is too tight. This is a new component which is larger than the existing Standard Ear hook and is made of the same material.

### Litewear Cable (50cm)

The CP800 Series Litewear Cable (50cm) is now available. The cable is designed to be worn by adults or children who want to wear their Battery Module lower on their body.

### Compact Processor Covers

We are pleased to announce that the processor covers for the CP810 Compact Sound Processors are now available to order.

### Dual Microphone Technology

The implementation of dual microphone technology in the Cochlear Nucleus CP810 Sound Processor incorporates two omnidirectional microphones. They are precisely calibrated to ensure accuracy and consistency. Dual microphone technology allows us to provide an enhanced suite of directionality for improved listening in noise and better recipient performance available only in the Nucleus 5 System.

### Euro Adaptor

The CP800 Series Euro Accessory Adaptor is a product designed to allow recipients to connect Euro-style (3 pin)\* accessories to their CP810 Sound Processor. In particular, the Euro Accessory adaptor can be used with behind the ear fm receivers.

Compatible with Phonak MLxS, Phonak MicroMLxS and Oticon R2

## **MED-EL'S FineHearing™ Technology**

The enjoyment of listening to complex sounds such as music or discussions in noisy environments requires the ability to process and differentiate the enormous amount of sound information in a highly precise way.

MED-EL has succeeded in developing a completely new sound coding technology that provides a richer and more detailed hearing experience than ever before possible. MED-EL FineHearing Technology opens a new dimension of hearing by providing the fine details of sound for a hearing experience with unprecedented depth and complexity.

### **Elements of Sound**

#### **Envelope**

The envelope is the "loudness contour" of the sound signal and is essential for speech understanding.

#### **Fine Structure**

The fine structure contains the subtle details of a sound signal and enhances pitch and sound quality.

### **A New Dimension of Sound Coding**

With the introduction of FineHearing Technology MED-EL overcomes the limitations of envelope based "traditional" coding strategies. Similar to frequency coding in normal hearing, FineHearing codes a sound signal both in rate and in phase.

The additional rate coding in low to mid frequencies mimics natural hearing better than ever before and provides fine structure information important for more complex listening tasks and situations.

The fine structure information of a sound is highly important for good music perception and sound localization.

Thus, MED-EL's FineHearing better represents both components of a sound, the envelope and the fine structure. By including the fine structure, the normal hearing process can be represented with greater accuracy than with the envelope alone.

For more information about MED-EL products, contact [customerservice@medel.co.uk](mailto:customerservice@medel.co.uk) or visit [www.medel.com](http://www.medel.com)

## **A New Addition to the Team at MED-EL UK**

MED-EL UK Ltd welcomes Susan Copperwheat, who recently joined the clinical support team. Susan is a Clinical Scientist in Audiology, whose previous experience includes a position with Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, before her most recent post as Advanced Clinical Scientist at the Yorkshire Cochlear Implant Service.

Susan's previous roles included working in Paediatric Audiology Services and Paediatric Cochlear Implants and clinical work with both adults and children. Susan also held managerial responsibility for the follow-up of children referred from the Newborn Hearing Screening Programme (NHSP), including ongoing service development and auditing within this area. Newborn Hearing Screening is an area of particular interest to Susan.

Susan is excited about joining MED-EL and working with recent developments in MED-EL hearing implant technology, such as the Maestro 2010 Cochlear Implant system, which is the most sophisticated and powerful CI system available, providing even better hearing benefit for MED-EL users. Susan's clinical and professional experience is an excellent addition to the MED-EL UK team and further enhances the support available to clinics and, ultimately, MED-EL cochlear implant users across the UK, Ireland and South Africa.

## ***ABInsight* newsletter to be launched online in November**

The new *ABInsight* newsletter, launched in Autumn 2010, will keep CI users and candidates, doctors and other professionals informed about products, local events, experiences of users and news from Advanced Bionics.

It will be sent by e-mail and will be available in English, German, French and Dutch.

If you wish to receive the newsletter, please register using the online form at <http://abinsight.bionicear.eu>

## **Holiday opportunities**

Hearing Concern Link plans to re-introduce (for 2011) its programme of escorted holidays for adults who have hearing loss. "We have had CI users travelling with us before and would like to welcome more." says holidays organiser Philip Barron.

The programme will include several, inexpensive, coach-based holidays in the UK as well as some (necessarily more expensive) trips to Continental Europe, including a tour of Classical Spain taking in Seville, Cordoba and Granada. Of special interest to art-lovers will be a separate 3-night visit by air to Madrid (with flights from London) which will include visits to the Prado and the city's other great galleries. Also planned are short breaks in Paris or Bruges using Eurostar in both cases, with connecting trains from the Home Counties to take participants into St Pancras International (for Eurostar).

Full details will be available in December. If you are interested, contact Philip Barron at 1 (B) Bernhard Baron Cottages, Lewes Road, Polegate BN26 5HB or email [philiphbarron@gmail.com](mailto:philiphbarron@gmail.com) including your postal address in the message.

Hearing Concern Link will shortly re-launch, with the shortened name HEARING LINK. Philip can supply details of the charity's other services (and membership) on request.

## **Fundraising**

A grand total of £500 was raised for HCCIG by Darren and David on Friday 12th November at the Hertford County Hall, selling dress jewelry. A very big thank you to you both and also George and Margaret Pallett.

## CHEQUES

We have been having difficulties with our bankings as some cheques are being made to HCCIG. Could all members please ensure that all cheques are made to HOME COUNTIES COCHLEAR IMPLANT GROUP, in this way it would make our lives easier. Many thanks.

## TRUSTEES

We currently have a vacancy for a trustee within the charity. We are advertising this to members of the group and it's an opportunity for one person to be involved in the running of the charity. There is a leaflet available to be downloaded from the charity website, [www.charitycommission.gov.uk](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk) entitled "The Essential Trustee". This outlines the basic duties of a trustee and if you want to look at this document, will give an idea as to what to expect. We do have three trustee meetings a year to help the running of the charity.

Should anyone wish to obtain further information please contact Darren Pallett on [Darren@dspallett.co.uk](mailto:Darren@dspallett.co.uk) and I can email the leaflet to you or can answer any questions you may have.

Kind regards

Darren Pallett

## Contacting HCCIG

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

## Trustees

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A Voluntary Group Funded by Members

## Disclaimer

*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.*