

COCHLEAR IMPLANT UNIT KOGLEËRE INPLANTINGSEENHEID

HOSPITAAL • TYGERBERG • HOSPITAL



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Celebrating 700 patients

On 24 October 2017 the Tygerberg Hospital – Stellenbosch University Cochlear Implant Unit successfully implanted the 700th Cochlear Implant recipient. This milestone achievement occurred 2 weeks prior to the Unit's 31st anniversary.

Congratulations to

MELICIA RUTHIE HERMANUS



No.700

The stories below are excerpts from our patient and parents' stories - their full stories are kept together with their photograph in an album at the Cochlear Implant Unit. All the recipients expressed their heartfelt thanks to family, friends and the Tygerberg Hospital Cochlear Implant team for the support they received in their journeys. Many also gave thanks to God.

Hieronder is verkorte weergawe van stories van ons inplanting gebruikers en hul ouers. Die volledige stories en 'n foto is beskikbaar in die foto-album by Kogleëre Inplantingseenheid. Al die pasiënte het hulle families, vriende en die Tygerberg Hospitaal Kogleëre Inplantingseenheid bedank vir die ondersteuning wat hulle ontvang het tydens die inplantingsproses. Baie pasiënte gee ook alle eer aan God.

GUY MIDDLETON (No. 614)



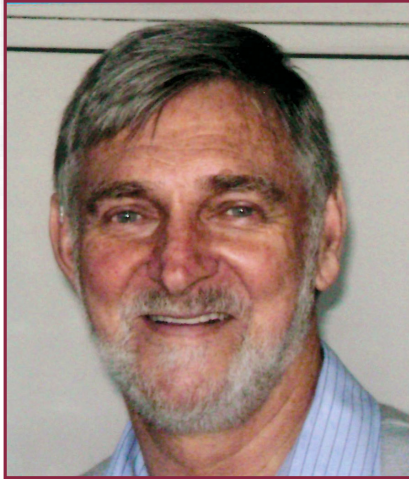
"Life is a journey; the view is spectacular from the other side"

My Journey starts in 2000, when I had to undergo a medical test every 6 months as part of my employers' company policy. It was noted that my hearing was not at a level it should be and I was then sent to an audiologist who confirmed the diagnosis and told me that I would require hearing aids. Later hearing aids would no longer work for me anymore. My family life was suffering and in public I was the odd one out.

June 2014 was a new beginning for me. When we arrived in Cape Town in 2014 I met a good friend Fanie du Toit. With the assistance of Fanie and my audiologist I was referred to the Tygerberg Hospital Cochlear Implant team to complete all my hearing tests. I was told that I am a good candidate for the cochlear implant. I informed my employer immediately and they were happy for me. I was ecstatic and knew there was light at the end of the tunnel.

I received a cochlear implant in my right ear in February 2016 and a month later was switch on time. I did not know what to expect. Some people told me I won't hear anything, but to my surprise I was hearing some sounds. I went for regular mapping and I have just finished my yearly check-up. My implant has really lived up to its expectations but it is also hard work from my side. It does not just happen. I continue to wear a hearing aid in my left ear. My family life has improved 100% and my work environment has improved 95%. I am now trying to help others reach their dream by communicating what I have been through.

ANDRÉ LABUSCHAGNE (No. 629)



My gehoor het geleidelik totdat later het selfs die duurste gehoorapparate my nie meer gehelp nie. Angesien een persoon se gehoorverlies almal met wie jy probeer kommunikeer raak, het ek die afspraak gemaak by Tygerberg Hospitaal se Kogleêre Inplantingspan.

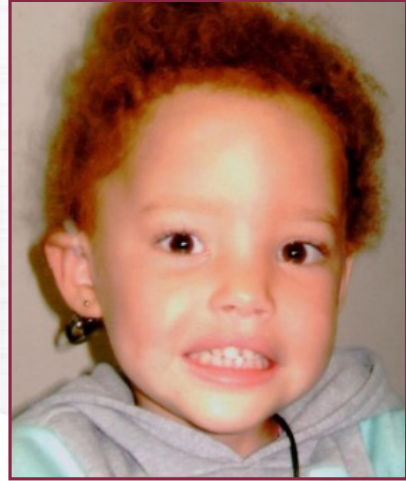
Ek was verbaas om te hoor hoe duur dit sou wees om weer te kan hoor. Mens se ore is meer as goud werd! Ek was ook bekommerd oor hoe die inplanting my vermoë om musiek te kon maak, sou affekteer. Na aanleiding van die raad van 'n dame wat ook 'n kogleêre inplanting na dertig jaar van doofheid gekry het, was ek oortuig om 'n inplanting te laat doen.

Dit is nou bietjie meer as 'n jaar gelede dat ek my kogleêre inplanting ontvang het. Die operasie is delikaat en hoef nie gevrees te word nie. Die operasiewond het gou genees en het die "aanskakeling" gevolg. Mense het my aangeraai om die ergste te verwag, en ook maar goed. Ek moet erken ek was teleurgesteld. Toe die oudioloog vir my vra: 'Kan jy my hoor?', antwoord ek: "Ja, maar jy klink soos 'n 'budgie'." Ek het ook gehoop dat ek die hoë note van my trekklavier, wat ek saamgeneem het, sou kon hoor, maar dit was toe nie so nie. Die klank klink heelwat anders as waaraan jy gewoond was.

Tog bly dit 'n wonderwerk om weer spraak te kan hoor! Die klankprosesseerder is gemaak vir spraak. Tegnologie het nog nie so ontwikkel dat musiek klink soos wat mens dit voorheen ervaar het nie. Vir party klink musiek beter as vir ander, maar nie dieselfde as voorheen nie. My vrou het my gehelp met die luisteroefeninge wat die oudioloog, voorsien het. Ek het ook met behulp van die groot tipe oorfone en die internet oefeninge gebruik, wat ontwerp is vir immigrante om Engels in Brittanje baas te raak. Ek sukkel ook nog om met my selfoon te kommunikeer.

Ek was altyd baie lief vir radio luister, maar het later nie meer geluister nie. Vandag kan ek weer die radio geniet, selfs die klein transistoradiotjie in die kombuis. Dit is vir my swaar om nie meer my trekklavier en kitaar te kan hoor soos voorheen nie, maar ek hou moed dat dit weer beter sal klink en dink nie daaraan om my instrumente te verkoop nie. Daar is uitdagings om te oorkom, maar dank die Vader, ek kan weer my kleinkinders hoor ("Oupa se ore was stukkend") en deel wees van 'n wêreld van klank.

ANJA-LEIGH TALJAARD (No. 632)



Gedurende Anja se eerste jaar het, was ek doodseker dat sy kon hoor. Sy het gereageer op haar naam, het gedoen wat vir haar gesê was, en woordjies gebruik. Skielik op 18 maande het alles verander. Sy reageer nie op haar naam nie en het net stil geword. Ek was toe na my plaaslike kliniek, waar hulle my na Tygerberg Hospitaal verwys het. By Tygerberg is gehoortoetse gedoen terwyl Anja slaap, en daarna was sy 90% doof verklaar en het 2 gehoorapparate gekry. Ons was toe na die Kogleêre Inplantings eenheid verwys en daar was MRI en CT skanderings gedoen om vas te stel of sy vir 'n kogleêre inplanting kwalifiseer.

Anja was die Sondag opgeneem en was Maandag 15 Augustus 2016 in die teater om haar kogleêre inplanting te ontvang. Nou vorder Anja baie goed en ek is so trots op haar.

PHIWOKUHLE ISAAC (No. 633)



Phiwokuhle lost her hearing when she was almost 2 years old. Soon after that we noticed that she also started to lose some of her speech that she had developed.

Before the cochlear implant she was not hearing anything. She got a cochlear implant operation in September 2016 when she was 3 years 6 months old. After the switch-on she started hearing soft sounds. I am so proud of her and her cochlear implant because she can speak now. The cochlear implant is amazing, without it my little princess would have not been able to hear and speak. Now my daughter has the gift of hearing.

We must work hard with our child so that she can improve her speech and hearing.

HESTER VAN WYK (No. 634)



Ek is Hester van Wyk en ek is reeds vanaf my dertigerjare doof. Nou op 65 is ek terug in die LEWE want ek kan weer HOOR.

Ek het as predikantsvrou met drie jong seuns en 'n gemeente my gehoor verloor. Selfs onder die sorg van ONK spesialiste, kon die proses nie gekeer word nie, en is ek met 'n dooie oor en 'n gehoorapparaat daar gelaat. Dit was vir my en my gesin 'n groot aanpassing.

Met gehoorapparate het dit beter gegaan, maar my gehoor het algaande verswak totdat ek met selfs die sterkste gehoorapparaat baie min kon hoor. Strand kliniek het my na die Tygerberg Hospitaal verwys. Daar was die moontlikheid dat ek vir 'n kogleêre inplanting kon kwalifiseer. My eerste vraag aan die inplantingspan was: is ek nie te oud nie?

En daar begin die reis na my nuwe lewe! Ons AGS gemeente, Helderberg, het die nuus met ongekende entoesiasme ontvang. Na die nodige toetse, doktersafsprake en inspuittings is ek op 29 Augustus 2016 by Tygerberg hospitaal, ge-opereer. Daardie maand voor die aanskakeling waarin ek heeltemal doof was, was uiters moeilik. Ek het my bietjie gehoor, en van my reeds swak balans ingeboet, maar vir my was dit die verlies werd. Na my aktivering op 29 September 2016 het ek besonder vinnig gevorder tot waar ek vandag, elf maande later is.

Vir die eerste keer in baie jare kan ek weer amper normaal hoor. Waar mense kla oor honde wat blaf, hadidas en sonbesies wat raas, is dit vir my ongelooflik om dit te kan hoor. Ook my famileiede en vriende, voëls, die see, TV en sommer die geluid van plastiek wat vrommel is 'n ongelooflike ervaring. Ek vra my twaalfjarige kleindogter of sy dink dat ouma beter hoor en sy antwoord: "Oe ouma baie, baie, baie beter!". Ek het pas weer, op aandrang van Mnr Fanie du Toit van RSG, na my geliefde koorsang en musiek begin luister, dat die trane loop, sodat ek nie weer wil ophou luister nie.

OYENA GULWA (No. 636)



The meaning of my son's name is "The real One". When Oyena fell ill in mid-September 2014 it was a very sad day for us as a family as he was born without any disorder in his body and things had suddenly changed. We as a family struggled at a lot emotionally and financially to deal with this matter; but no matter what happened as a father I had to always keep trying to find a solution. I didn't want any regrets and at the end I can say it was possible by the Grace of a Mighty God.

Oyena received his cochlear implant in September 2016. We are not yet done with the journey but he can now hear again, speak and have conversations with everybody which is something that he couldn't do for the past two years. To see him learning and trying to catch up on his speech again is an honour and a great privilege. One day we will look back at the journey we travelled and say that we managed to make it based on our endurance, perseverance and dedication. Without these things we would not have been where we are today.

MISOKUHLE MCENGWA (No. 639)



When Misokuhle was 2 years old, I saw that she had a problem because she could not speak. At the time she was staying with my mother in the Eastern Cape and asked her to take her to the clinic to see why she was not speaking. The clinic at Ugie sent her to Mthatha Hospital who found that she could not hear and sent her to Red Cross Hospital. From Red Cross Hospital we were referred me to Carel du Toit School.

I wanted Misokuhle to learn to talk. The hearing aids did not help her and they sent us for the Cochlear Implant at Tygerberg Hospital. She had a Cochlear Implant operation in September 2016 the day after she turned 3 years old. She is doing much better now because she can hear; she says many words and is learning to speak. I work very hard with her. It is not easy to speak English all the time, it's a challenge. I try all the time and when I am at home I can see she is learning lots of English now.

ISA NEETHLING (No. 640)

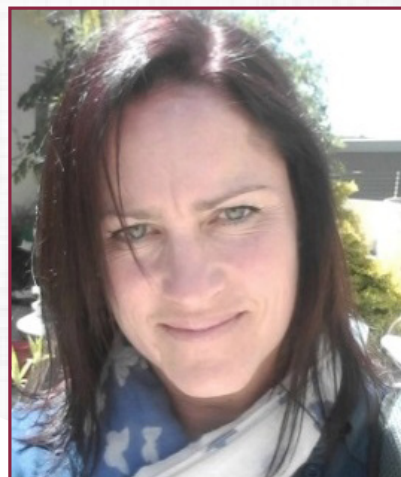


About 10 years ago I discovered I was slowly losing the ability to hear. Based on the results my audiologist confirmed that hearing loss was progressive and hearing aids were to become the order of the day. I stood there in complete shock and disbelief. The news was devastating. Over the years my hearing, even with hearing aids deteriorated dramatically to the extent that hearing aids would no longer be strong enough. I was then referred to Tygerberg Hospital for a cochlear implant evaluation and the results revealed that I was a suitable candidate. I faced a few hurdles in my decision, not to say, finances was the first issue as the cochlear implant device, surgery, pre and post-implant care is extremely expensive.

In November 2016 my doctor performed a successful cochlear implant surgery and weeks later I received the external device. Once the device was switched on, I was completely overwhelmed by "weird" sounds, which continued for a few days but soon settled down. After some days I went from non-talking, hearing and listening to "hello world I can hear you". I could once again recognise people's voices, different sounds, make conversation and be part of social interaction which was incredible. I could also communicate with my loved ones which was awesome.

Needless to say the cochlear implant comes with challenges, which requires patience, perseverance, and determination. My therapy sessions are still ongoing with my audiologist from the cochlear implant team. Looking forward to a brighter future - it has been a dream come true!

CELIZE GREBE (No. 641)



I am a 42-year old physiotherapist from Port Elizabeth and was diagnosed with profound bilateral sensorineural hearing loss when I was a baby. I wore a strong hearing aid with great success in my left ear and attended the Carel Du Toit Centre. I eventually played my final piano exam while in a mainstream high school at Joubertina. I went on to study at the University of Stellenbosch and qualified as a physiotherapist.

A few years ago I experienced episodes of total hearing loss, where even the hearing aid did not help at all. I went to the Cochlear implant team at Tygerberg Hospital and after several examinations I was diagnosed with enlarged vestibular aqueducts. In October 2016 I received a cochlear implant in my left ear. Activation day was in November 2016 and since then periods of extreme highs and lows followed.

Let me start with what it is to not hear at all: yesterday we went out for my birthday dinner and the batteries of my processor died. I forgot to bring extra batteries and ended up looking at the restaurant goers, reassuring my children that their food is on its way, watching my husband talking to several people, and all this in total silence. I could not wait to get home and put new batteries in my processor; and what a relief to be part of the hearing world again!

I can hear soft sounds now, watches ticking, birds chirping 5 o'clock in the morning to tell me it is time to get up, dogs barking far away, my children breathe when they are sleeping, the indicator of my car, somebody opening the gate of the practice, and the rain fall.

My world of sound is not all roses and moonbeams, as I still struggle in noisy environments to discriminate between certain sounds. Music is still not as I remember it to be, and the progress is very slow. I am working very hard to listen to various music and instruments. Music I knew before was easier to catch up. Unknown music is mostly disastrous, and it caused a huge silent panic in my heart for not making it out properly, but it is improving slowly, although at a snails' pace. Yesterday I could make out 80 % of a new South African song by Jo Black, "Skepe" I felt very humble and privileged to finally be able to appreciate it. To catch the notes. To catch the tone, the words and the true feeling of it.

*"Die lewe sal jou gooi en jou rondruk.
Soms voel dit of jy sink, maar jy moet net jou voete soos
Petrus vind.
En dalk net weer glo soos 'n kind.
Hou net koers, want soms kom die twyfel.
Dit gaan meer oor hoe jy opstaan en minder oor hoe jy
struikel.
Moenie vrees as die waters rof raak nie.
Tel jou skouers op.
Voel jou hart weer klop." (Jo Black – "Skepe")*

I know that the quality of sound is still going to improve over the next few years, as the brain's plasticity will adjust and learn new pathways to recognise music fully.

ELDRID MATTHEE (No. 642)



Ek is gebore met net 3 persent visie en 'n gehoor verlies. Oor die jare het my gehoor baie agteruit gegaan en ek het 'n hele paar gehoorapparate gedra, maar sonder enige sukses.

Totdat ek meer te wete gekom het van die kogleêre inplanting en ek het net eendag besluit om uit te vind of dit nie vir my dalk sal werk nie. Omdat ek van Mosselbaai is, was die naaste sentrum by Tygerberg Hospitaal en 400km van ons af. Ek en my vrou het deur gery tot by Tygerberg en na die hele proses het ek goedkeuring gekry om 'n kogleêre inplanting te kry.

Ek was baie verlig, maar tog nog skrikkerig vir die operasie. Ek wou amper op die laaste oomblik kop uit trek, maar het tog besluit om te bly. Vandag kyk ek nie een oomblik terug nie. Danksy die kogleêre inplanting kan ek nou amper 100% verstaan wat my vrou sê. Die beste van als, is dat ek nou lekker lang gesprekke met my seun kan hê, wat nie moontlik voorheen was nie. Voor die inplanting het ek gereeld frustreerd geraak as ek nie kon hoor nie. Dit gebeur nou nie meer nie.

Wat nou wel my vang is wanneer die battery pap raak in die middel van 'n gesprek. Dan moet ek dit gou vervang. As dit by slaap tyd kom is ek weer terug in die land van die dowes, maar hoe wonderlik is dit nie om in die oggend my bioniese oor op te sit en al die klanke te kan hoor nie.

Die beste vir my is om weer musiek te kan luister en in 'n restaurant te sit en met my vrou te kan gesels. Ek sukkel nog om sekere mense se stemme mooi te hoor, maar die belangrikste vir my is, om die mense rondom my en my familie te kan verstaan. Ek sukkel ook nog met die stemme op die radio en

TV. Deesdae kan ek weer 'n gesprek volg om die braaivleis vuur en lekker saam met my vriende kuier. Als is nie 100% nie, maar klank is wonderlik. Ek sien uit na die pad vorentoe en om net beter te kan hoor.

LIKA CARSTENS (No. 645)



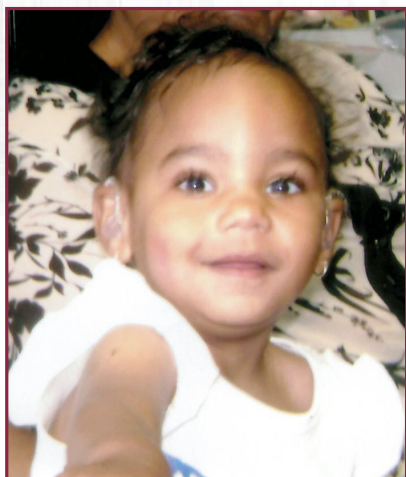
Ouers Lindie en Gert se storie: Ons as ouers is albei Doof. Ons het nie groot geword met al die fasiliteite wat vandag beskikbaar is nie. Dit was vir ons 'n moeilike besluit omrede ons dogtertjie, Lika, ook doof is (vir ons was dit normaal) maar ons moes dink aan wat die beste vir haar toekoms sal inhou.

Met die aanbreek van die operasie was ons lank voor die tyd en tydens die operasie maar baie senuweeagtig. Jy twyfel, praat en wonder heeltyd "doen jy die regte ding?", "gaan dit suksesvol wees?", "waardeur sit ek my kind?" en "is dit die moeite werd?" Dit was 'n lang wag, maar als was op die einde van die dag die moeite werd. Lika praat ongelooflik goed en sy kommunikeer terselfertyd met ons as ouers met gebare. Dit is die beste besluit wat ons nog ooit geneem het.

Ouma en Oupa Brian en Sanet se storie: Ons is in 'n horende en Dowe wêreld in ons huishouding. Dit was maar senutergend met al die besluite. Jy wil die beste hê vir jou kinders en kleinkind, maar ons kan raad gee en sê wat dit vir haar toekoms inhou, maar hul as ouers moes die besluit neem. Soos Lindie sê, vir hulle was dit normaal dat sy doof is. Daar was teenkating van ander Dowes, veral die ouer garde. Ek dink dis oor die tegnologie wat nie sover ontwikkel was in hul tyd nie.

Die kogleêre inplanting vir Lika was die beste besluit ooit wat hulle geneem het. Als vat tyd, tot met die aanskakeling, geen kind reageer dieselfde nie. Lika het omtrent 'n uur lank gehuil voor ons eers kon begin. Ek dink sy het ons almal se angstigheid en onsekerheid aanvoel maar ons het vasgebyt. Ons sal nooit die aanskakeling vergeet nie toe sy die eerste geluid hoor nie "Amazing!". Dis 'n ander kind, sy blom absoluut. Ja dis opoffering en hardewerk, maar jy pluk die vrugte daarvan as jy sien hoe sy geluidjies hoor; sy nuwe woordjies praat, sy lag en gesels (soos 'n 3-jarige) en vir mamma beduie sy en vir ons wat kan hoor sê sy dit hardop. Lika is elke dag by Carel du Toit skool en sy is al so gekonfyt as haar prosesseerder nie op is nie vra sy daarvoor en as sy speel en dit val af, sit sy dit self op. Dis die beste besluit ooit, want hoe kan jy so 'n voorreg om te kan hoor van jou (klein) kind ontnem.

LEAH HAILEY ROODT (No. 646)



Leah was born on the 7th of July 2016. She was five days old when we found out that she was born with congenital rubella, leaving her with cataracts on both eyes, two holes in the heart and she was deaf. She now wears contact lenses to improve her sight and she also received the gift of hearing on the 28th of October 2016. We are so happy our baby can hear. Leah just loves her cochlear implant.

ROD GARRETT (No. 655)



Some 10 years ago I started to gradually lose my hearing. Over the following years my wife and children constantly needed to repeat things to me and "I beg your pardon" became my standard phrase. I managed to continue life relatively normally and eventually decided in 2014 to go to an audiologist and get hearing aids fitted. The hearing aids certainly improved my hearing until in 2016 I lost all hearing in my left ear.

I went to see an ENT surgeon intimated that I had at some stage of my life I had contracted a viral infection that was affecting me hearing. After several consultations he suggested that I should consider a cochlear implant in my left ear. I was obviously very keen to undergo this procedure and although I fortunately have a medical aid, this by no means covered the full cost of the procedure. I underwent the operation in December 2016. The implant has allowed me to continue living a full life. I work full time as before and am most grateful to the Tygerberg Cochlear implant unit for giving a second chance at life.

RUDY KIANDA (No. 656)



My name is Rudy Kianda and I am 14 years old. I am from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and I have lived in South Africa for 5 years now. I could not hear properly with my hearing aids so I had a cochlear implant operation in December 2016. Before the operation, I would struggle to hear my mom when she would call me. Now after the operation everything is much better and I can hear "sh" and "ch" sounds very well. My hearing is much better now. I think that I'm happier because I can hear better, and I can talk to people and understand what they mean.

CAMERON COETZEE (No. 657)



Cameron is our first child and was born on 29 May 2015. He suffered from reflux and swallowing difficulties from an early age, but we were unaware that he was actually born with a very rare autosomal recessive genetic disorder known as Riboflavin Transporter Deficiency (RTD).

Around 10 months of age he developed inspiratory stridor and we took him to a paediatric ENT specialist. Our worst fears were confirmed when the doctors diagnosed him with bilateral vocal fold paralysis, diaphragm paralysis and later confirmed auditory neuropathy. After spending 8 weeks in hospital and after many operations and tests we left with a miracle child who had a tracheostomy, a ventilator and a gastrostomy tube for feeding as well as extremely high daily doses of riboflavin (vitamin b2). After numerous hearing tests, guidance from

the Tygerberg team, the Carel du Toit Centre and a trial of hearing aids, Cameron received his first cochlear implant (CI) on the right side in December 2016. We were nervous about the procedure and recovery, but at the young age of only 18 months Cameron took to the CI immediately.

Cameron has just turned 2 years old and has started saying his first words such as "water" and "hello". We are amazed at his progress and will forever be grateful to the team of professionals that supported us every step of the way!

LUTHANDO NKUNGWANA (No. 665)



Luthando was born in 2007 with no complications. He got sick with meningitis when he was 5 months old and I took him to Red Cross Hospital. At Red Cross Hospital they found that he was deaf and first put in grommets for 6 months, but he still couldn't hear. The hospital then decided that he needs to use hearing aids in both ears and he started at Carel Du Toit School from 2010 with his hearing aids. When his right ear started to give him problems we made an appointment at Tygerberg hospital to see the cochlear implant team. We went for all the tests and scans and they decided that Luthando will be a good cochlear implant candidate. He had the cochlear implant operation in February 2017 and can now hear very well with the cochlear implant.

Luthando says "I was a bit shy at the beginning to show my cochlear implant to strangers and I used to wear a hoodie or beanie just to cover my ears, but now I'm so proud of myself that I can hear and play with other kids."

ALBERTUS VAN DYK (No. 667)



Ek het my lewe lank baie goeie gehoor gehad, maar op 62 het my regteroor skielik doof geword. Een oggend het ek net besef ek kan nie op die telefoon hoor nie.

Ek is na 'n oudioloog op Worcester vir 'n gehoortoets en het toe twee gehoorapparate gekry wat baie gehelp het. Ongeveer twee jaar gelede het die oudioloog gesê sy kan nie meer die apparaat harder stel nie en ek moet 'n kogleêre inplanting oorweeg. Dit is toe dat ek op 'n dag by Tygerberg se Kogleêre Inplantingseenheid beland het en daarna het al die toetse en skanderings begin.

Op die 2de Maart 2017, op 'n ouderdom van byna 75 jaar, is die inplanting gedoen en op 21 April 2017 is die aanskakeling gedoen. Dit is nogal 'n snaakse gewaarwording omdat 'n mens nie meer met jou oor hoor nie, maar met jou brein.

Na 'n hele paar instellings kan ek nou met 'n n kogleêre inplanting regs en 'n gehoorapparaat links 'n heel goeie gesprek voer. Tussen groot groepe as almal praat gaan dit nog nie so goed nie, maar dit verbeter steeds. Mens moet net baie geduld hê en nie haastig word nie. Ek is dankbaar die inplanting is gedoen, want dit is voorwaar die moeite werd.

JANIE VISSER (No. 668)



Dit het begin in 2015 toe ek besef het dat my gehoor nou regtig 'n probleem word. Ek sou vinnig 'n plan moes maak om hulp te kry, want ek word al hoe dower. So besluit ek om in 2016 in te skryf vir Mej Dowe SA en ek ontmoet toe vir Simoné ('n gewese Mej Dowe SA wat 'n kogleêre inplanting het) en ons twee gaan drink toe koffie en gesels bietjie oor kogleêre inplantings.

Dit was 'n konsep waarvan ek baie min geweet het en ek, op daardie stadium het ek nie gedink dat dit 'n realiteit vir my sal wees nie. Die oudioloog waarna ek verwys is het vir my alles mooi verduidelik, en het ek het by al my afsprake uitgekom, en die span besluit toe dat ek 'n kandidaat is. Dit was regtig vir my 'n droom wat waar geword het. Ek het vir so lank gesit met hierdie gehoorprobleem wat al hoe slegter word en met geen hoop vir die toekoms nie, het ek selfs begin gebaretaal aanleer vir ingeval ek heeltemal doof word en nie meer sal kan hoor nie!

Die operasie was baie suksesvol en vandag vorder ek baie goed met my inplanting. Ek hoor dinge wat ek nooit vantevore gehoor het nie en dis ongelooflik.

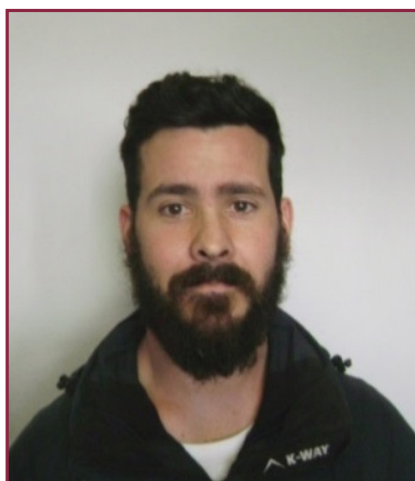
KARIN DE WEE (No. 669)



My naam is Karin de Wee en ek is 40 jaar oud. As gevolg van die Kanamycin inspuiting het ek my gehoor gedurende Mei 2014 verloor. My oudioloog het my met my eerste gehoorapparaat gepas, maar dit het nie gehelp nie. Daarna is ek verwys na Tygerberg Hospitaal om te gaan vir toetse en evaluasie vir 'n kogleêre inplanting.

Op 27 Maart 2017 was ek geopereer en die aanskakeling was op die 8ste Mei 2017. Na een jaar en 11 maande van 'n wêreld van stilte, kon ek weer die geleentheid kry om na klanke, stemme, musiek en die gekwetter van voëls te luister. Dit was nie iets wat oornag gebeur het nie, maar verseker kon ek ook weer my pad vind om alleen te kon beweeg, en gesprekke te voer sonder om uitgesluit te voel. I feel like a little child whose life has just begun!

RICHARD MORTON (No. 670)



They say all good stories start with a woman; however this one starts with one and ends with another. It was no secret that I was reticent about getting an implant - in my mind there was simply no point. I wasn't missing anything. My late mother and I had discussed it at length and, although she desperately wanted me to get it, she respected my opinion.

They say hindsight is 20/20 and the thing that was impossible for me to grasp is that I would not simply be amplifying the background rumbles and coarse sounds I was hearing. Besides, although my mother's death had torn me open I was doing fine.

She was my world and, being deaf, a lifeline. Five years after her death time was not healing.

Enter woman number two - a determined redhead who could be described as intense. She did not and still does not allow me to get away with anything. My feeble arguments in defence of my lifestyle were met with honesty and withering stares. While she accepted me for who I am she was, but she was less accepting of my behaviour. It is intensely annoying to be told off by someone who is always right. Unlike my mother she had no respect for my decision not to get the implant. Her reasons were rational and specific. I am an extrovert who struggles to understand people and whom people struggle to understand. With both parents dead I lack the support of a family which makes me more isolated.

Finally after a week of some spectacularly bad behaviour on my part I got a firm ultimatum. Thank god I did. She was exceedingly right - I had no idea what I was missing, how could I? The nuances of sound made and still make my world a much happier place. People understand me better. I finally understand them - not just the words, but the emotions conveyed. Music has made me cry - Queen, Dire Straits. I recently went to watch the Cape Philharmonic Orchestra play Beethoven's third symphony and I understand why he's rather famous! YouTube is a guilty pleasure that has taught me so much! On the practical side sound acts as a reminder - cooking food, running water. It feels like my world hasn't just been expanded, it's gone full colour. I have to thank all the people involved for giving me back my hearing and my joy to live.

FELICIA VAN STER (No. 671)



I am 31 years old born with Osteogenesis Imperfecta (OI) - a brittle bone disease that also affected my hearing. My journey before my implant hasn't been a bed of roses. Being diagnosed with profound hearing loss at the height of my youth was devastating. I couldn't continue practising my one true love for music, and attending class and being social became a huge hassle. I literally withdrew from any social interactions and became totally dependent on my parents and close family to escort me wherever I needed to be. My life changed a little when I received my first hearing aid in 2006. Thankfully I could complete my college education and graduate.

After years, my hearing gradually became worse until December 2016 when I woke up one morning with absolutely no hearing,

not even my hearing aid was able to support the amount of hearing loss I experienced. After many consultations I finally had my operation on 24 April 2017 and my switch on took place 24 May – that was the most emotional day of my life, something that I will always be able to remember (even the Donald Duck and Robocop made it worthwhile - LOL). I hear so much better now, waves crashing, birds chirping but most importantly I am able to understand speech a lot better compared to how it was before my implant. I am more independent, more involved socially and I genuinely got my life back.

My implant motivated me to embrace and enjoy life, I still have a long way to go, but I am dedicated towards whatever I need to do to ensure my implant provide me with the best possible hearing.

AMANDA LUNGUZANA (No. 672)



I am 25 years old and I was born free of illness or disease. I was a perfect child in my early childhood and I finished attending primary and high school without any trouble. During 2012 I noticed that my right ear was giving me problems whilst I was completing matric. It was during 2014, while I was doing my second year at college that I became deaf. I received a hearing aid in 2015, but sometimes the sound was too much and uncomfortable. Most of the time I stayed home to avoid the public and I was depressed.

In 2017 I was attending a doctor's appointment at Tygerberg Hospital ENT clinic. That was the day I started to have hope that I can have my normal life back again. I was selected for this expensive cochlear implant. The Cochlear implant is so great. I feel so thankful to the Father that I am myself again. I have goals to achieve and I can make it in my life having a bright future. I can watch TV, listen to the radio, and hear sounds. The cochlear implant is perfect technology. I agree 100 % that if you have a cochlear implant and an active brain you can do anything if you have the gift of hearing again.

ALOSHAY ARENDSE (No. 674)

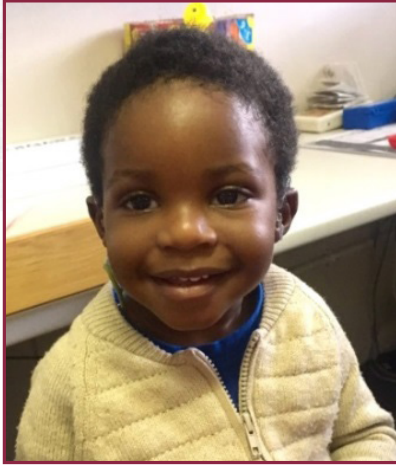


My daughter was diagnosed at the age of three months with Biliary Atresia and had to undergo a liver transplant within the first two years of her life. On 8th March 2011 she had her liver transplant done at Red Cross Children's Hospital which was successful but little did we know that she would be a victim too so many side effects. Soon after her liver transplant she was diagnosed with HLH (explained like a bone marrow cancer) and she had to start chemotherapy with little hope of survival.

By God's grace she was discharged from Red Cross Hospital in February 2012 but she could not hear us the way she could before. I noticed that she did not respond when called and she would suddenly seem shocked at the level of certain sounds. In 2015 her ears were tested and it was determined that she had sensorineural deafness due to all the medical interventions that she underwent, and our new journey unfolded. She was fitted with hearing aids but she still could not hear properly. She needed a cochlear implant but the cost was simply overwhelming and life seemed dark as I saw how badly my daughter was being affected by this. She struggled to pronounce new words, she lacked self-esteem and I could see she felt different.

Then a miracle happened. On the 9th of May 2017 Aloshay received the best gift we could ever ask for as the Bidvest Hear for Life Trust sponsored her cochlear implant, carrying all costs involved. How this gift has changed our lives! She speaks with more confidence, she moves around freely when I talk to her instead of having to stand still and try and focus on reading my lips. I took her to the park shortly after receiving her implant and she had a look of wonder on her face and asked about the sound she was hearing and what an amazing moment that was. Aloshay has a little message for everyone involved in this process: "I am happy I can hear and I am very very thankful. Thank you everyone. God Bless."

JOSHUA ABRAHAM (No. 679)



My beautiful 2 year old son, Joshua failed his hearing test at birth in the USA and after months of follow up tests, he was diagnosed with a bilateral sensorineural hearing loss. It was a hard pill to swallow at the time so we returned home to Nigeria and my husband and I decided to "faith" it till he was a year old; after all miracles do happen and the Internet also told me of babies who eventually passed at 9+months. After his first birthday and no evident signs of response to "bomb blasts", we approached a medical practitioner who had a daughter with hearing loss. Fortunately for us she referred us to the Tygerberg Cochlear Implant Unit and left no room for further delay. After the first visit to Cape Town for assessment; he was fitted with hearing aids and recommended for bilateral cochlear implants.

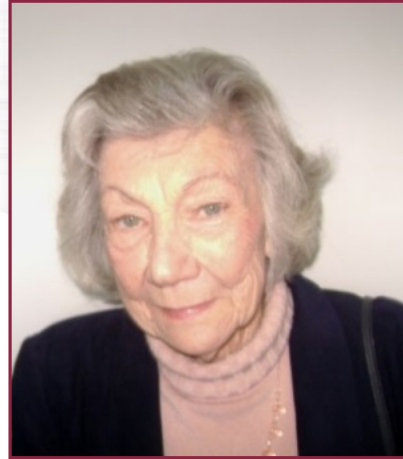
Joshua had his surgery on 25 May 2017 and was switched on 12 June 2017. It has been 3 months and with the help of a passionate and dedicated therapist, my boy responds beautifully to sounds. Every week he understands new words and phrases, he blabs a whole lot and seems to love his own voice. What joy to see him turn to the sound of his mother's voice and various other sounds such as the birds chirping. It has been almost 6 months out here in Cape Town and we have been through all kinds of emotions. We have an supportive team to work with. As we return to Nigeria, we are assured that they are not letting go of our hands in the journey to give Joshua the best access and rehabilitation for a bright future. I am super excited to see my boy take on the world and succeed.

IMANGE KOLOTI (No. 680)



My family and I would like to extend our appreciation to KFM, the Bidvest Hear for Life trust and the staff members of the Tygerberg Hospital – Stellenbosch University Cochlear Implant Unit for the role they played in assisting Imange to hear. I look at my child today and see the smile on his face as he is able to fully partake in hearing his siblings.

WENDELINA TOUGH (No. 682)



I remember that at an early age I often had cotton wool in my ears due to my ears discharging and my mother was constantly taking me to the doctor. Growing up in Durban, close to the beach, we spent a lot of time swimming, which was very detrimental for my ears. After passing my general nursing and midwifery exams, I worked and travelled overseas, later married and had four sons. Looking back my hearing was gradually deteriorating. In my seventies, I realised that I was not hearing I should and became adept at lip reading. Then suddenly my left ear went deaf and an audiologist gave a hearing aid. With this and lip reading I coped well, however my hearing did deteriorate further over time.

My children noticed that I was not able to communicate at family gatherings and my son made enquiries to see if something could be done and I was referred to the Tygerberg Cochlear Implant Unit. At 84 years, I had a cochlear implant and with great success. I can now follow a conversation when in a small group and hear my grandchildren. What a Joy!

SUSAN STROEBEL (No. 688)



Ek het nooit gehoorprobleme gehad nie en was 'n baie aktiewe, sosiale, en sportiewe mens. In my vyftiger jare het ek een oggend wakker geword en gevind ek kan niks in my regteroor hoor nie. My dogter het nog vir my gesê dit is my verbeelding. Na 2 dae was dit nog dieselfde en het ek 'n Oorspesialis gaan sien. Ek is op behandeling gesit en daar is gesê een uit sewe persone kom reg. My gehoor het egter nooit reggekome nie en dit was vir my 'n verskriklike skok en baie dramatiese.

Daarna het ek ook geleidelik doof geword in my linkeroor. Ek 'n gehoorapparaat in my linkeroor begin dra en het 'n apparaat probeer in my regteroor maar dit was tevergeefs. My gehoor in my linkeroor het oor die jare baie verswak en het ek het my onttrek van die samelewing. Ek was 'n aktiewe rolbalspeler, maar het my selfs daarvan weerhou.

In 2017 het ek, 'n Oorspesialis geraadpleeg vir 'n kogleêre inplanting. Hy wou dit egter in my linkeroor doen, aangesien hy van opinie was dat my regteroor te veel skade het. Ek was te bang om dit te laat doen, want as dit nie 'n sukses is, sal ek die enigste gehoor wat ek het, verloor.

Toe gebeur 'n wonderwerk! Ek sien op die Internet van die Inplantingseenheid in Tygerberg Hospitaal. Ons maak 'n afspraak en na sekere toetse sê die oudioloog dat my oor is nie "dood" nie maar wel "doof". 'n Maand later laat weet hulle my dit kan wel in my regteroor gedoen word.

Ek het op 20 Julie 2017 'n inplanting in my regteroor gehad. Die aanskakeling vind toe op 23 Augustus 2017 plaas. Ek kan nie beskryf wat 'n wonderwerk dit was dat daar na 18 jaar weer gehoor in my oor is. Dit was baie dramatiese en emosioneel, vir my en my man. Na al die trane van dankbaarheid en blydskap lê daar nou 'n tyd voor van oefen en luister. Na ek met ander persone in dieselfde situasie gesels het, het ek besef dit sal nog tyd neem voor ek heeltemal duidelik sal kan hoor.

GILLIAN LAMBOUR (No. 691)



About two years ago I was involved in a car accident. It wasn't a very serious one but I did bump my head on the left side. I was examined for concussion but was told I did not suffer from that. I then began to have vertigo and numerous tests revealed that there wasn't any brain damage. I then consulted an Audiologist and the result of that was I had to have double hearing aids fitted. My hearing then deteriorated quite rapidly and soon I had only 20% in both ears. I was devastated. I could not hear anybody properly especially on the phone let alone my long suffering husband.

We consulted one of the Tygerberg Implant team who recommended the cochlear implant. The operation took place on 27 July 2017 and went extremely well but the waiting for the "big switch on" seemed to take ages. The switch on occurred on the 1st of September. When I heard the audiologists voice, albeit sounding tinny and as though through a broken microphone, I was quite overwhelmed and teary. On the way home afterwards I had my first conversation with my husband in the car. Normally my hearing aids "take up" the sound of the engine and I hear nothing. It was really great.

We went to Natal to visit our family and it was wonderful to take an active part in the conversations. I never realized that I had isolated myself so much because of my hearing loss. The family were quite vocal about this and welcomed the "real me" back! I really had very little problem adjusting to the implant. The hearing aid in my other ear helps to translate the sounds. It is quite wonderful to simply hear. One cannot imagine how one can miss that sense until it is taken away from you.

APHELELE NKOMO (No. 689):



My son was diagnosed with a profound hearing disability on 31 December 2016, at the age of 6 months. The news was devastating and evoked feelings of denial, disbelief and anguish for me and my partner. Accepting this reality raised many questions in terms of challenges that we had to face in order to have peace and happiness as a family dealing with this kind of situation. We took him to the doctor who found out that he has Meningitis. After another check-up was made and results came back that he has a problem with hearing on his right ear.

The doctors then told us that they are going to do a cochlear implant for him to start to hear again. For his left ear he is going to use a hearing aid. During this period we attended many speech therapy appointments. He is a happy child and we are fine knowing our son got his hearing back. He can listen to the sounds and dance to music and also make sounds and play around with his siblings.

ANOTHANDO NQEVU (690)



I want to thank the Tygerberg Cochlear Implant team and the Bidvest Hear for Life Trust who helped my child to hear again after she had meningitis 1 and a half years ago. I am really grateful and appreciate it.

EARLY INTERVENTION AND AUDITORY VERBAL THERAPY



Early intervention with hearing impaired children in South Africa has, over the years, been moving towards international best practice. This change gathered momentum in 2010 when 12 candidates across the country were given the opportunity to participate in a year-long course taught and mentored by Warren Estabrooks and generously sponsored by Southern ENT/Cochlear. This course covered the principles and practice of AUDITORY VERBAL THERAPY.

Auditory Verbal (AV) therapy is an early intervention approach for deaf children and their families which focuses on developing listening as the foundation for spoken language which in turn is the basis for the development of good literacy and numeracy. This approach partners with parents to guide and support them in skilfully engaging with their child.

A short course through the University of Stellenbosch was then established. The 'Learning to Listen South Africa' Professional Training Course has graduated 50 therapists from across Southern Africa since 2012. This has given more insight and skill into the additional training needed when working with deaf children and their families.

The newest chapter is the current enrolment of 4 therapists with AV-UK. This opportunity has been partly sponsored by both Southern ENT and MEDEL and will change the face of early intervention in South Africa. Cape Town is in the privileged position of having 2 therapists participating in this program: Jenni Bester from Carel du Toit/CHAT Centre and Barbara Kellett from the Tygerberg Hospital - Stellenbosch University Cochlear Implant Program.

This course involves a minimum of 3 years post-graduate study and mentoring by a certified Auditory Verbal therapist.

AV-UK is an award winning charity based in London and Oxfordshire. Their distance training program has allowed us access to a curriculum that will prepare us for the certification exam through AGBell in the USA. This training takes the form of weekly podcasts and webinars together with regular mentored feedback of our clinical practice.

The full cost of the entire course is £5605 per participant. Some of this has been covered by sponsors and we have had some private donations towards costs but further financial support is needed to ensure the completion of the training. Donations for Jenni Bester's and Barbara Kellett's training can be made through:

Carel du Toit Trust Fund

Reference:	Auditory Verbal Training
Bank:	ABSA
Account no:	404 823 7586
Branch code:	63 2005

Having certified AV Therapists in South Africa and specifically our Cochlear Implant Programme will significantly change the journey to sound for many children born with hearing loss and their families who wish spoken language to be their outcome and further develop the skills of our speech and language therapists.

CONGRATULATIONS

CONGRATULATIONS TO TRISTAN STUCK

Congratulations to Tristan Stuck for completing his Master's Degree in Geological Sciences Cum Laude through the University of Cape Town. The topic: "Thermodynamic Modeling in partial melting in Metabasic rocks". Tristan received his cochlear implants in 2002 and 2004.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MARK ROACH

Mark Roach represented South Africa during the summer Deaf Olympics in Samsun Turkey during 2017. Congratulations to 20 year old Mark for making SA proud. Mark received his cochlear implants in 1998 and 2004. Mark had the following to say: "In

August I competed at the 23rd Summer Deaflympic Games. I was super stoked with a semi and two finals, my best placing being 5th for the 200m Individual Medley. The experience and the people I got to meet from around the world made the experience that much better. By far my best international meet yet."



MISS DEAF SOUTH AFRICA

Over the years many of the Tygerberg Hospital – Stellenbosch University Cochlear Implant Unit patients have participated, been finalists and been crowned in the Miss Deaf SA pageant.

Congratulations to Chantelle Pretorius who was crowned Miss Deaf SA 2017 and Jody Bell crowned as second princess during the 2017 pageant.



A history of the previous Miss Deaf South Africa crowned finalists:

- 2001: Susan Krige
- 2007: Enette Botha (Also Miss Deaf Africa 2012)
- 2009: Vicki Fourie (Also Miss Deaf International 1st Princess 2009)
- 2012: Simoné Botha
1st princess: Marisa Smit
- 2013: 1st princess: Marisa Smit (Also Miss Deaf International Africa 2014).
- 2015: Ellen Mans (1st Princess)
- 2016: Janie Visser (1st Princess)
- 2017: Miss Deaf SA - Chantelle Pretorius
2nd Princess – Jody Bell.

TEENAGE DAY 2017

During the July 2017 school holidays we hosted a one day get together for teenage cochlear implant users. Various topics were covered and many teenagers used the group as a platform to share amongst each other their thoughts and ideas. One core theme that emerged this year was bullying and how to deal with bullies at school and at home. Positive feedback was received with many having enjoyed the day and asked that it happen again in 2018. Please keep a look out for the next teen day invitation in 2018 and encourage all teenagers to attend.



Front row: Roxy Lee Abrahams, Sydney Graayenstein, Denolia Pillay
Back row: Kelly Lewis, Rudy Kianda, Mkhusele Mkhayiya, Touheed Ismail, Simbulele Dungu.

HEARUS AND MYSCHOOL

HearUs was established by parents of deaf children who have cochlear implants. The vision is to assist children to obtain a cochlear implant so as to facilitate their learning to speak and become part of the hearing world.

HearUs is a registered and regulated non-profit organisation and operates in close association with the Tygerberg Hospital – Stellenbosch University Cochlear Implant Unit.

As HearUs has no commission structure and minimal overhead costs almost 100% of your donation will be directed towards the beneficiaries of cochlear implants. More donations are needed to assist those in need.

Donations to HearUs can be sent to:

Account holder:	HearUs
Bank:	ABSA
Branch:	Durbanville
Branch code:	632005
Account number:	4053388469
Swift code:	ABSA ZA JJ

Please see the website and Facebook page for more detail (<https://www.hearus.org.za> OR HearUs – A South African Cochlear Implant Association. By "liking" the page you will automatically follow updates).

MySchool is a fundraising programme able to raise funds for various charities and schools including HearUs. By registering to be a supporter and swiping your card at participating stores you will automatically raise funds for HearUs without costing you a cent.

Please consider completing the supporter card application form included with the newsletter and register HearUs as a beneficiary. The completed forms can be faxed or emailed to Lida Müller: amum@sun.ac.za/ 021 938 5080.

Charitable bequests: leave a lasting legacy

A charitable bequest is a donation from your deceased estate to a charity/ charitable organisation as specified in your will.

Should you wish to acquire further information about bequeathing donations to HearUs as a beneficiary please contact Lida Müller: amum@sun.ac.za/ 021 938 5080.

THANK YOU

We are extremely grateful for the support we receive from a few individuals and charities which help towards the costs of cochlear implantation, maintenance of hearing and optimisation of the cochlear implant services our team provides.

We would like to gratefully thank the following individuals and organisations:

- The **Bidvest Hear for Life Trust** for the donations which have provided a cochlear implant for 4 children in 2017 and the Primedia teams of Cape Talk and KFM for the extra mile to which they go.

The four 2017 recipients were: Aloshay Arendse (no. 674); Imange Koloti (no. 680); Aphelele Nkomo (no. 689); and Anothando Nqevu (no. 690). Please see their stories above.

- **The Harry Crossley Foundation**

Throughout 2017 the Harry Crossley foundation will have assisted 14 patients to acquire their cochlear implants. Without their assistance this would not have been possible for these patients and we would like to express our sincere gratitude for their continued support for our programme.

GILL KERR: ESPCI 2017

During May 2017 Gill Kerr from the Tygerberg Hospital-Stellenbosch University Cochlear Implant Unit, attended the European Symposium on Paediatric Cochlear Implantation in Lisbon, Portugal.

Sixteen hundred delegates from 65 countries around the world shared their knowledge, experiences, and research results and future vision for the field of pediatric cochlear implantation. The highlight of the conference was Canadian Ear, Nose and Throat surgeon Blake Papsin's impassioned plea and challenge posed to the audience to look at ways of rolling out cochlear implantation to more of those who really need it so that they too can benefit from this life-changing technology.

EXCITING NEWS!

Nucleus® 7 Sound Processor has been released

The world's first made for iPhone cochlear implant sound processor has been launched – the Nucleus® 7. The processor has improved battery life and is the smallest and lightest sound

processor available.

Please see the website for more detail: <http://www.cochlear.com/wps/wcm/connect/uk/home/discover/cochlear-implants/nucleus-7-sound-processor>

Please contact your audiologist for more information if you are eligible for application through your medical aid.

THE WONDER OF THE MINI-MIC 2+

Keith Powell received his cochlear implant in 2011, his wife Sue had the following to share about the difference the Mini-Mic 2+ had made to their lives:

"My husband was diagnosed with auditory neuropathy and received a cochlear implant in 2011. It is no exaggeration to say that the cochlear implant changed our lives as we were now able to have a conversation in a quiet environment. Situations with background noise however, remained difficult and we struggled to communicate in noisy environments such as a coffee shop or when socialising with friends around a braai. In August 2017, Keith upgraded to the Nucleus 7 sound processor which came together with a Mini Mic 2+ and our answer to the background noise challenge. It is unbelievable what a difference the Mini-Mic has made as I am able to chat to Keith in a completely normal way in any environment. It's a novel experience for us to be able to go out for coffee and chat in the middle of the noise, as well as across a distance such as the Baxter theatre. He can hear the softest whisper and everything I say to anyone else I'm chatting to. We now won't leave home without our new best friend the Mini-Mic!

MEDICAL NOTES

MEDICAL ALERT DISC: It is recommended that all cochlear implant users should wear a medical alert bracelet. This is to warn medical personnel who may need to treat the cochlear implant user in an emergency situation. This will assist in avoiding the potential risk of damage from various medical procedures to the implant.

Please contact your ENT surgeon for more information regarding the information to be displayed on your medical alert bracelets. The following websites can be viewed for more detail: <https://www.medicalert.co.za> OR <https://www.iceid.co.za/>

MRI SCANS: No patient using a cochlear implant should have an MRI scan before consulting with their ENT surgeon. Those patients who use a CI22 implant may not have an MRI procedure. Patients who use a CI24 implant may only do so under specific conditions which should be approved by your ENT surgeon.

There is no risk to CT scan, ultrasound imaging and X-ray procedures.

Important safety guidelines and precautions are in the manufacturer's guide. Please read the guideline "Important information, Warnings, Precautions and Electromagnetic compatibility" as provided when you received with your processor/ implant.

INSURANCE AND PROCESSOR SAFETY:

Unfortunately during 2017 a few patients have reported lost or stolen processors.

Please remember to insure your processor where possible and to always use additional measures to safely secure the processor to your body, especially with children. Please always ensure that children are wearing a clothing clip, snug fit or earmould to assist with anchoring the processor for safety.

Please contact your audiologist should you require more information.

SPARES AND ORDERS:

Your cochlear implant processor has a 3 year warranty; most other parts have a one year warranty. Should anything break during the warranty period you should immediately report it to your audiologist.

Consumables (e.g. microphone protectors, batteries) and parts no longer under warranty can be ordered from Southern ENT.

Refer to your product catalogue booklet for the correct name and product codes – this was provided when you received with your sound processor.

Always ensure that you have enough spare parts to replace items timeously and to replace what is needed in an emergency.

CHANGE OF CONTACT DETAILS:

In the case of changes in your contact details, please remember to inform your audiologist or Antoinette de Bruyn: antoinettedb@sun.ac.za or by WhatsApp/ SMS 076 387 7227.

TIME FOR CLEARING OUT CUPBOARDS AND DRAWERS:

If you have any old hearing aids that are not being used or any spare parts of your cochlear implant system that you have no use for, please bring them to your audiologist. We would be grateful for donations and have use for second hand hearing aids and other spare parts.

WHATSAPP/ SMS NUMBER: 076 387 7227

Please remember to use our WhatsApp/ SMS line to contact your audiologist for your cochlear implant related enquiries.

Things to keep in mind when using this number:

- Please remember to always say who you are, who your mapping audiologist is and why you are contacting us in your message.
- This phone is not manned all day and we will respond as quickly as possible to your messages.
- This number can only receive SMS/ WhatsApp messages, you cannot call this number.
- Only in use on weekdays during work hours only, not in use on public holidays.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Remember to bring your remote assistant with to all your MAPping sessions.
- Nucleus 5 and 6 users please remember to change the microphone protectors every 3 to 4 months depending on how clean they are.
- Check the skin at the area where you place the magnet to make sure the skin underneath is healthy and not showing signs that the magnet is too tight (the skin will appear red in comparison with the skin around it).
- Make an appointment to see your implant surgeon once a year for a check-up.

RESOURCES

Hearability: For any further information on assistive hearing devices, amplified alarm clocks or a bed shaker that vibrates under the pillow or mattress visit: <http://www.hearability.co.za> or <http://www.assistive-technology.org>.

Inclusion of persons with hearing impairment or deafness in the workplace:

Are you aware that legislation exists to assist people with deafness or hearing impairment to be reasonably accommodated in the workplace?

If you would like more information about this, please contact Fanie du Toit (National Council for Persons with Disabilities) at fanie.dt@mweb.co.za. Fanie will provide you with information as to what processes need to be followed in order to get a report that is in line with the requirements from your employer.

Assistive device help desk for government employees:

All government employees please be aware of the centralised assistive device help desk that was launched in October 2017. For any queries related to assistive devices please don't hesitate to contact: Mr James Chatwind (Manager Assistive Device Help Desk: James.Chatwind@westerncape.gov.za; 021 483 5340).

SUPPORT GROUPS:

FACEBOOK: Cochlear implantees in South Africa have a Facebook group: "South African Cochlear Implantees". You can request permission from the administrator to join should you so wish.

HEAR2DAY: Hear2Day is an active South African group that aims to enhance communication through listening. We campaign for better conditions for people with hearing loss and meet regularly in a social setting to discuss and share hearing-related experiences. Email us at hello@hear2day.co.za to get in touch and join us at our next meeting.

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the passing of the following implantees:

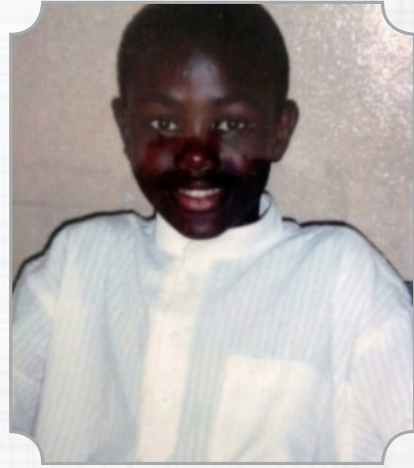
IN MEMORIAM



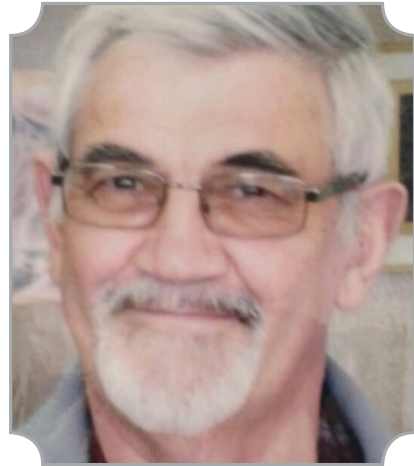
Gerrie van Reenen (No. 2) – † 27/05/2017. Gerrie received his cochlear implant in 1986 and was part of the initial group of implantees that taught us so much about hearing with the cochlear implant technology of the time.



Jolene Samuels (No. 340) - † 19/1/2017. Jolene received her cochlear implant in 2008.



Thandikhaya Rubushe (No. 91) - † 04/09/2017. Thandikhaya received his cochlear implant in 1997.



Matthys Esterhuizen (No. 408) - † 15/8/2017. Matthys received his cochlear implant in 2011.



Bonani Mvuyisi (No. 549) - † April 2016. Bonani received his cochlear implant in 2014.

Our thoughts and condolences to their loved ones.