

COCHLEAR IMPLANT UNIT KOGLEÊRE INPLANTINGSEENHEID

HOSPITAAL • TYGERBERG • HOSPITAL



NOVEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 2018 NUUSBRIEF

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

NAWAAZ KARBELKAR (No. 659)



After our son Nawaaz was born, an audiologist performed a test that showed signs of hearing loss. After many more audiological tests, his severe to profound hearing loss was confirmed and he started to wear hearing aids from 6 weeks old. The months that followed were daunting and scary and only once we accepted that our son had a hearing loss

could we move forward and plan what to do next.

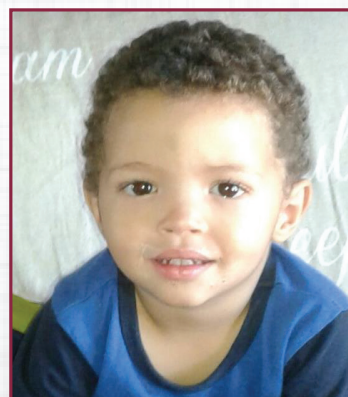
We knew that he might have to go for the cochlear implant and what it would achieve by doing this, but we still had some doubts. After the first operation we could see the difference it made with his speech so when we considered the second operation we had no doubt that this was the best decision for our son. He received his first cochlear implant at 1 year 6 months of age and his second when he was 2 years 9 months of age. We are very happy with his progress thus far and are thankful to our team for guiding us through this journey. Going for the CI is the best decision we could have made and it can only get better from here onwards.

LIKUYE MERILE (No. 664)



My son Likuye Merile received his cochlear implant in January 2016 at Tygerberg Hospital. At the switch-on he immediately responded to sound and it was one of the happiest days of my life. He was so excited to hear his voice and many different sounds. It was amazing to see my deaf child hear. A cochlear implant has changed my son's life and he has a bright future ahead.

SHAQUILLE VAN WYK (No. 673)



When we noticed that our son Shaquille was not responding to sound like any other toddler his age, we became worried. We approached an audiologist and completed a hearing test and were devastated when we were told our son had a hearing loss. At one year of age he started to use hearing aids, but they did not help him very much. The doctors

then told us about the cochlear Implant and how this would help our son to hear.

We wanted the best for our son and Shaquille received his cochlear implant at two years of age. We were all very excited for the switch-on just to see his reaction to sound. Shaquille has now been using his sound processor for 2 months and is making good progress. We are still at the beginning of our journey and have a long road ahead of us, but we are hopeful for the future and the cochlear implant has already made a big difference in our lives. My son can hear, he can hear!

ZAMIKHAYA TSHAYA (No. 675)



I received my cochlear implant in 2018. I can now hear much better and can communicate with my children and family if they are close to me and talk slowly.

FRANCOIS NAUDE (No. 676)



I'm 40 years old and received my cochlear implant in June 2017. I was first identified with a hearing problem during primary school but at that stage did not wear hearing aids. After completing school I started to work at an engineering firm and had to communicate using a cell-phone which presented a new problem for me.

Over time and running my own business I eventually stopped using the cellphone as I could no longer follow telephonic conversations. Clients then had to communicate via my personal assistant, with some clients being more understanding of the situation and others less so. At this stage I could only have a conversation if I could see a person's lips. My lip-reading skills were excellent and many people found it difficult to believe that a telephonic conversation was impossible for me after talking to me in person. My hearing problem also created additional communication difficulties with my wife as casual conversations were only possible with me looking directly at her with undivided attention. As a result of my hearing loss I did not like to go to the movies or restaurants. Conversations in the dark, or while travelling were impossible for us.

In 2016 I decided to again contact the cochlear implant Unit for an evaluation as due to developments within my business I needed to be able to successfully interact with colleagues and client base. Following the evaluation I was found to be a good candidate and one month after the surgery was my switch-on.

I could hear a lot of things, but experienced most of it as noise. My audiologist had explained that because of my duration of deafness it would take time for me to adjust to the new sound. The first 3 months were difficult and it took me a long time to adjust to the new sounds. It was a noisy world, with simple sounds such a bang coming through loud and clear, but speech was experienced as very high pitched, computerised sounds. After 3 months I started to notice improvements or new sounds almost daily. This gave me hope and determination to carry on.

I now can hear quite well with the implant, I wear it constantly and it became part of me. After a period of adjustment and hard work I now feel even music sounds like I remembered it when I was young. I'm also still aware that my hearing (rather say my brain) is still slowly improving and that my hearing will continue to improve. My ability to interact with my staff, clients and wife has also dramatically improved.

IMANGE KOLOTI (NO. 680)



My son was 18 months old when the audiologists told me he is profoundly deaf. I felt alone, hurt and disappointed following the diagnosis. I was scared to go out in public with a child that has hearing aids because I was scared people would judge me. Imange was then referred for a cochlear implant assessment and to the Carel du Toit

School and everything changed. Now, here I am enjoying every moment with my child. We laugh and play together and the moment where he was able to call his father was a moment we had been waiting for a long time. I am grateful for the cochlear implant as it has done so much for us and brought so many joyful moments to our lives.

RUCHEN FRANKE (No. 685)



Ruchen Seth Franke is gebore op 35 weke en het 'n baie moeilike tyd gehad aan die begin van sy lewe. Hy het verskillende infeksies opgedoen en het opgeëindig in ICU vir drie weke waar hy moes veg vir sy lewe.

In 2015 is Ruschen gediagnoseer met Ouditiewe Neuropatie en het twee gehoorapparate gekry. Ongelukkig het die appaarte nie gehelp nie en hy was toe verwys vir die kogleêre inplanting. Ruchen het op 2 jaar die kogleêre inplanting operasie ondergaan. 2 dae na sy verjaarsdag was Ruschen se aanskakeling. Met blydschap kon ons as ouers sê dat Ruchen se spraak en taal elke dag verbeter.

Hy begin al sy woorde meer en meer gebruik op die regte tyd. Ruchen het sy inplanting al 'n jaar en 3 maande, en hy doen sy beste om te kan kommunikeer. Ruchen is ons wonderkind en ek glo dat hy eendag as 'n normale mens sal praat en kan lewe.

KHAYONE SITYEBI (No. 686)



Thank you very much for the cochlear implant. It has changed my child's life and she can now say many words and is making good progress. I believe one day my daughter will speak both English and Xhosa and without the help of the cochlear implant this would not have been possible.

MARELIA AHJUM (No. 692)



Marelia is a great joy to have around and we love her very much. In the beginning, before receiving her hearing aids it was difficult for Marelia to hear. As her hearing loss progressed the hearing aids were no longer helping her and it was hard for her to hear. Marelia received her cochlear implant in August 2017 and it is helping her a

lot. If it wasn't for her cochlear implant, she would have never gotten so far in her academics.

MADELE DE BEER (No. 693)



Ek het by Tygerberg Hospitaal aangeklop in 2016 vir 'n nuwe gehoorstuk. Na al die gehoortoetse, is dit bevestig dat my gehoor baie verswak het en ek is toe verwys vir 'n kogleêre inplantingsevaluasie. Tot my groot skok het ek nie besef dat ek as hardhorende ook oorweeg kan word vir 'n kogleêre inplanting, want ek was onder die indruk dit net vir dowes is.

In Augustus 2017 is ek gekontak dat ek die inplanting sal kry. Die hele proses was volledig aan my verduidelik deur my oudioloog en dokter. Ek het geweet wat om te verwag, hoe ek gaan voel en wat ek moes doen vorentoe. Op 16 September 2017 was my aanskakelingsdag en met my aansit was alles en almal "Mickey Mouse" gewees. Die eerste paar dae was vir my baie snaaks en moeilik, want almal het soos Mickey geklink.

My oudioloog het vir my baie luisteroefeninge gegee, beklemtoon dat ek moet oefen om te luister met die nuwe klank en hoe langer ek die prosesseerder dra hoe beter. Mettertyd het ek die proseseerder 10 ure per dag gedra en so het Mickey ook verdwyn.

Dit is nou 'n jaar later, niemand kan meer agter my rug praat en dink ek hoor hulle nie want hulle weet ek hoor nou alles en meer. Ek hoor selfs die kar se flikker lig, muskiete, my honde wat loop op houtvloere en my papegaai as hulle, hul snawels knars. Die kogleêre inplanting het die "Universe" vir my oopgemaak. Ek is normaal tussen normale mense. My grootste droom vir 18 jaar was om 'n kriket te hoor. Die kriket het ek gehoor!

Baie sê nee vir 'n kogleêre inplanting, want wat gaan mense sê of skinder? Ek het dit gedoen vir my toekoms. Dit was die beste besluit nog en my drome is bewaarheid. My selfvertroue en selfbeeld is tops! My gehoor verbeter steeds by die dag. My spraak het totaal verander en is nou beslis normaal.

SUSAN RAVEN (No. 695)



Just before Christmas 2 years ago, my 3 sons were saying that I was no longer hearing them very well despite wearing 2 hearing aids. I felt isolated and they were frustrated with me for not hearing them. After seeing my audiologist again for a hearing test I was referred for a cochlear implant assessment.

I had the operation on the 4th of September and switch-on was a month later. Switch-on was pretty daunting as it felt as though loud bells were clanging in my head every time any noise was made. This lasted for about 2 weeks. My family encouraged me to be patient and keep up with all the listening exercises given to me by my audiologist. I practised every night as I was determined to succeed and after 5 months of many ups and downs, I noticed that my cochlear implant hearing was superseding my "best" ear! I continue to hear new sounds every day. It was amazing to "hear accidentally", things that I would never have heard before as well as following my prayer groups prayers with my eyes closed.

THERESE LIGHTFOOT (No. 696)



Let me begin by saying how privileged I am to be involved in something so special and feel incredibly fortunate to be part of the "cochlear implant family". I am thankful every day, for receiving this 'precious gift'. I had a successful cochlear implant during September 2017. My switch-on was an emotional experience, sharing this moment with

my husband Wayne, who has been my rock and has never once faltered in his belief that it is "going to be ok" - constantly reassuring me and believing in me.

I was surprised at the sounds - they were "robotic" but it was wonderful to hear again. My drive home was strange, everything sounded different and loud but I could hear it all. You need to adjust to the sounds around you. Birds sounded clearer than I had ever heard before. I could hear my daughter Stacey giggle and her cat purring, sounds which brought me great comfort and relief. You slowly pick up on small but meaningful noises which I had taken for granted when I had my full hearing.

My CI has been life changing for me and the way I now look at life. We all face challenges daily - I am no different. I am positive, happy and grateful. I am also blessed with the support of my loved ones. I now set goals for myself.

I have learnt 7 important lessons for living life with a CI:

1. Most important is to realise your loved ones are silently living this experience with you - the ups and downs and excitement and the fears.
2. Do not feel sorry for yourself - be grateful that someone has designed this wonderful gift which allows you a second chance at hearing again.
3. Don't expect others to understand what you are going through; rather share with them how you manage difficult situations (if this is necessary and beneficial to you both).
4. The new you has to be positive and confident, so wear your CI with pride.
5. Patience is key, be patient with others and be grateful when they are patient with you.
6. Being sensitive is a waste of time. Don't take any comments or expressions personally.
7. Share your story with others and be open and honest, you never know when your words may change the life of someone else.

As my son Tanner said to me in the beginning, "Mom your Cochlear is part of who you are now, never worry about what other people think." I forget it is there and am happy to share my experience with others, which is awesome. My wonderful life goes on.

LIENTJIE HAWES (No. 698)



Ek hoor baie beter met die kogleëre inplanting as gehoorapparate. Die begin was 'n groot aanpassing, maar met vasbyt en deurdruk pas my brein goed aan. Ek begin boodskappe via "whatsapp voice notes" uitmaak, hoor hoë geluide en musiek baie beter! Baie mooi om voëls te hoor as ek gaan stap. Ek is dankbaar vir die verskil wat die ko-

gleëre inplanting in my lewe maak.

ZAMAZULU MAKULA (No. 701)



I lost my hearing at a very young age which was very stressful and difficult for me. I attended a mainstream school with a moderate to profound hearing loss, but still managed to complete the highest grade possible and later attended and graduated with my degree.

Thus far my journey with a cochlear implant has been life changing. Hearing new sounds and recognising them has been the most joyous experience.

FLORUS DUVENHAGE (No. 708)



Florus was diagnosed with moderate-severe bilateral hearing loss in July 2016, following which he was fitted with hearing aids. Various blood and other tests were done to determine the cause of Florus's hearing loss and following CT and MRI scans at the end of March 2017 it was determined that he has Mondini dysplasia and Enlarged

Vestibular Aqueduct Syndrome (EVAS). Following an appointment with our ENT, bilateral cochlear implants were recommended and Florus received his first cochlear implant on the right side on the 11th of December 2017 and left on the 26th of March 2018. His speech has grown in leaps and bounds and he is now attending a mainstream English pre-school.

GILLIAN OKOTO (No. 712)



Our family is from Nigeria and when Gillian was about 6 months old I became concerned regarding her ability to hear as she didn't respond to her name, recognize my voice, or turn to the sound of pots banging, etc. I had these fears but I didn't want it confirmed, but we received the devastating confirmation at 8 months of age that Gillian

had bilateral hearing loss and our doctor in Nigeria said that she needed cochlear implants.

For the first time in my life, I travelled out of Nigeria with my 12 month old daughter, leaving the rest of my family back home during November 2017. Gillian needed to hear and speak and I realized this was something I could not do alone and needed help.

Barely three weeks after switch-on the result was amazing, Gillian would keep turning around to all the new sounds she could hear along the way. It's been six months after switch-on and Gillian just won't stop singing. It is still a long journey, but we are so happy because Gillian has many more smiles on her face.

TARA-LEE MICHAELS (No. 713)



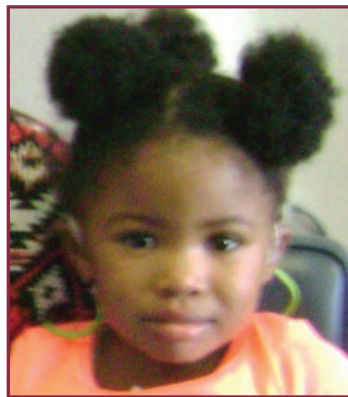
Tara-Lee had an incredibly tough start to life. She was born 3 months premature, was abandoned and left at a hospital with six life-threatening diseases. At 3 months old, she was released to the Elonwaben Child and Family Centre, an orphanage, where we volunteer. Tara-Lee came to live with us at 3.5 months old and we have never

looked back. We are currently fostering her, pending an adoption, which is in progress.

At 6 months of age it was observed that Tara-Lee had issues with her hearing and she underwent hearing tests to confirm Auditory Neuropathy Spectrum Disorder (ANSO). Tara-Lee was first fitted with hearing aids and we were hopeful that the hearing aids would help Tara-Lee with spoken language. However, we did research and found that having a CI would be more beneficial and Tara-Lee underwent the cochlear implant evaluation.

Tara-Lee received her cochlear implant in February 2018. During March 2018 Tara-Lee had her switch-on. We were overwhelmed with the experience as our girl will be hearing soon, something normal to us but weirdly strange to her. Tara-Lee has been hearing for 6 months now and has amazingly started saying words and communication has become much easier. I would encourage anybody to consider having a CI done.

SKYLAR-KAY VAN ROOYEN (No. 714)



Op die ouderdom van 9 maande vind ek uit dat Skylar geen reaksie toon wanneer ek haar naam roep nie. Ons is toe van George Hospitaal Rooi Kruis toe verwys vir gehoortoetse wat Skylar se gehoorverlies toe bevestig het in Mei 2016. Sy is toe verwys vir die koglêere inplanting en Skylar se hele wêreld verander. Dit is wonderlik om

te sien hoe goed Skylar doen. Dit is hardewerk maar die opoffering is voorwaar die moeite werd.

SHYLLENE ROSS (No. 715)



From a young age I always looked at people's faces to understand them. During 2017 my teacher noticed that I was struggling to hear in class and spoke to my parents to take me for a hearing test. I tried to focus and listen more in class, but had to lip-read to understand what was said. I knew I couldn't depend on lip-reading forever because

I needed to hear independently. I went to see an audiologist who confirmed that I have a bilateral profound sensorineural hearing loss and then sent me to Tygerberg Hospital for the cochlear implant evaluation. After more hearing tests I was found to be a candidate for a cochlear implant. My parents and I were shocked; we didn't think my hearing was that bad. I received my cochlear implant at the age of 13. I love the implant; it is helping me to hear much better and I can hear many different sounds and people speaking clearly.

ZUKISWA NTULI (No. 717)



I suddenly lost my hearing during June 2016 because of TB treatment. I could not hear with both ears and I had to write down everything when communicating with other people. I could no longer perform my work as a primary school teacher. It was a very lonely time for me and my family did not understand my difficulty. My audiologist referred me to Tygerberg Hospital for the cochlear implant. There

ferred me to Tygerberg Hospital for the cochlear implant. There

was hope to hear again. I received my cochlear implant in March 2018. On the 4th June 2018 it was my switch-on date at Tygerberg hospital. Wow! What an experience of hearing again. On the 3rd of September 2018 I returned to work. I am again enjoying my life thanks to the cochlear implant.

JUNE CLIFF (No. 720)



My hearing problems started roughly 25 years ago. I had used many different types of hearing aids over the years as my hearing gradually worsened.

I was referred for a cochlear implant assessment in 2017, but honestly never thought anything would come of it as I thought it was mainly for children and special cases. I received my implant in March 2018 and the switch-on shortly followed. For me it has simply been awesome – I had few expectations but my main motivation was to hear people and speech again but so much more has been achieved. I now hear so many sounds that I had forgotten about or never occurred to me were there. Every week I hear new sounds – it's like a totally new world and life has been opened up to me. Receiving the CI literally achieved more than I ever could have imagined nor expected! A truly awesome journey so far!

NICOLAAS JANSEN (No. 723)



Ek het my gehoor in my regter oor verloor as kind op 9-jarige ouderdom, daarna het ek op 19-jarige ouderdom my gehoor in my linker oor verloor a.g.v. pampoentjies. Geen gehoor apparaat kon my gehoor verbeter nie. My wêreld was baie stil. Ek kon vir baie jare net lippetaal lees, iets wat ek baie goed bemeester het.

'n Suksesvolle kogleêre inplanting is in Mei 2018 voltooi. Tydens Junie was ek baie bly om na jare weer die geklingel van sleutels en geraas van papier te hoor. Hierna was dit 'n lang pad met baie luister oefeninge. My waarneming van klank het baie verbeter, en ek kan makliker kommunikeer. Ek kan op my fiets ry deur die dorp en hoef nie weer so baie rond te kyk nie, want ek kan die motors hoor aankom. My gehoor raak elke dag beter.

Vandat ek weer kan hoor verstaan ek mense baie beter. Dit voel baie goed om na 31 jaar weer te kan hoor en ek sien uit daarna om eendag normaal tussen baie mense te kan hoor.

MARLENE VAN DER BERG (No. 725)



Ek het oor die afgelope 12 jaar geleidelik doof geraak. Vanweë my doofheid, het ek myself begin onttrek van mense. Dit maak jou baie eensaam. Ek kon selfs nie meer alleen na die winkels toe gaan nie.

My kogleêre inplanting is op 3 Mei 2018 gedoen en ek het presies geweet wat om te verwag. My oor is op

29 Mei 2018 aangeskakel en ek kon dadelik hoor; nie perfek nie, maar baie beter as voorheen. Ek kon hoor!! Na die aanskakeling, het my kleindogter (7 jaar) vir my "Amazing Grace" gesing. Ek kon dit hoor!! Dit alleen som alles op. Elke dag kon ek vordering ervaar. Vandag kan ek net sê: Dankie, ek hoor so te sê normaal.

LUKAS VAN NIEKERK (No. 730)



For many years I've been ducking and diving gatherings, professional meetings, speaking in public, (at international congress it was a nightmare), groups of friends, my photographic club tea breaks and a whole lot of other social events, meetings with a few people and restaurants, even with my family and with my wife. When-

ever there was ambient noise I could not hear. I had become anti-social and removed from the real world. I lived with a hearing problem for many years, I realise now.

When I first realised that I have a hearing problem, I realised that there are solutions to the problem. Then it happened...in May 2018. My life changed at the same time without me realising. In a matter of a few months I started to hear again in my right ear... sounds, my wife's voice, my children and grandchildren, talking shouting, screaming...and being alive. Now, after a few months, I find that I do hear much better and could hear the comments at my club's competition without much effort. I am very pleased and satisfied with the cochlear implant I received. I am starting to find a new life.

PAULINE HUTCHINGS (No. 732)



I've spent some time wondering how best to describe my implant experience; the initial anxiety about expense, surgery and talk of the effort that would be required on my own part to make sense of the weird sound I'd have to learn to interpret was daunting. Did I have the necessary courage, energy and capability of committing to a marathon adventure in my mid 70's?

The two incidents that weighed heavily in favour of taking the plunge were firstly reading a poster in my audiologist's rooms explaining the worrying correlation between lack of hearing and dementia, and the second was the enthusiasm of a stranger who had gone through the procedure and who assured me it would 'change my life'.

I took that to be an exaggeration, but if I could at least use a telephone again, ask for help at an airport with the expectation of understanding the answer, and hear the punch lines of jokes without having to fake a laugh – that would be something.

Having been through the implant ordeal 25th May 2018 my processor has become my most precious possession. It feels as though the light comes on in the morning when I connect up - and at night when the little miracle needs 8 hours in dry comfort I reluctantly shut down too. I'm hooked for life – but oh! What a life! I have dropped my hermit habits and am joining in with my hiking companions and having fun instead – the tranquil years indeed!

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 HARRY CROSSLEY FOUNDATION

Throughout 2018 the Harry Crossley foundation has assisted 13 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.

- THE ALBIE SAAYMAN FUND

The Albie Saayman fund has assisted 23 patients throughout 2018 to acquire equipment for the continued maintenance of 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.

HEARUS AND MYSCHOOL CARD

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 details (<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.

Should you be interested please contact Lida Müller to obtain a supporter card application form to register HearUs as a beneficiary. The forms can be requested from Lida Müller via email: amum@sun.ac.za.

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.

TEENAGE DAY 2018

During the October 2018 school holidays we hosted a one day get together for teenage cochlear implant users. The primary topic addressed 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 2019. Please keep a look out for the next teen day invitation in 2019 and encourage all teenagers to attend.

A special thank you to Charmaine from GRIP kids for her assistance on the day (<https://www.facebook.com/GRIPKidz>).

MRS. 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, Mrs and Mr. Deaf SA pageant.

Congratulations to Tracy Duncan who was crowned Mrs Deaf SA 2018 and Wendy Dirks (Hendricks) crowned as first princess during the 2018 pageant.

HOW COCHLEAR IMPLANT TECHNOLOGY CHANGED OUR LIVES

CONGRATULATIONS TO ANGELIQUE O'CONNELL (No. 134)



Angelique O'Connell was awarded the first prize for the top achieving matric special needs learner in the Western Cape. Angelique received her cochlear implant in 1999.

CONGRATULATIONS TO KATE ALLWOOD (No. 344)



Ten year old Kate received her first cochlear implant at the age of 6 months and her second implant when she was 12 months old.

Kate has shown yet again how music appreciation and learning to play an instrument is within the capability of children

who have had the benefit of early detection and cochlear implantation. Over the last 2 years Kate has been learning to play the piano as an extramural activity at school. At home in the evenings she practices her chosen exam pieces, her exercises and theory. In 2018 she obtained an 89% distinction in the Trinity College Grade 1 piano exam, and then Cum Laude for her piano recital performance in the Helderberg Eisteddfod.

Kate loves being able to choose the pieces she wants to play. Practicing is sometimes a difficult daily discipline to keep up, but she loves playing for her family. Often her siblings will grab noisy shakers, sticks, or drums for an impromptu accompaniment. Her musical enjoyment also extends to the school choir which she has been a part of for the last 3 years.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DANIËL MEYER (No. 257)



Daniël Meyer was selected for the Western Cape gymnastics team and qualified to represent the province for tumbling and artistic gymnastics. Daniël recently participated in the SA Gymnastics games and was placed first in his age group for tumbling. Daniël received his cochlear implants at 11 and 14 months of age.

Daniël had the following story to share:

Ek is nou in graad 8, in Hoërskool Stellenberg en funksioneer heeltemal normaal tussen my vriende. Ek speel hokkie en doen gimnastiek. Ek het die afgelope 5 jaar na mekaar Wes-Kaap klere vir gimnastiek gekry. Ek gaan as deel van die Wes-Kaap span, hierdie Oktober in Gauteng deelneem aan SA's. As julle gewonder het hoe my ore op my kop bly as ek tuimel en gimnastiek doen, "Wigtape" is al wat vir my werk. Dit is ook lekker om saam met my maats hokkie te speel.

Ek het my Laerskool by die Natuurwetenskap Olimpiade verteenwoordig. Ek het ook Hoogste lof vir my gedig en Onvoorbereide lees by die Tygerberg Eisteddfod verower. Ek het Akademiese ereklere en het ook Sport ereklere vir gimnastiek ontvang.

CONGRATULATIONS TO HENNO CONRADIE (No. 216)



Henno Conradie performed a leading role in his schools bianual musical – "Disney's Aladdin". He further achieved 96% in unprepared reading for the local Eisteddfod held during 2017 and was awarded second place within his age group at a national debate competition held in Pretoria.

Henno received his cochlear implants at the age of 7 months in his right ear, followed by his left ear at the age of 2 years and 6 months.

Henno's family had the following story to share:

"Sal hy dan eendag kan praat?", het ek verbaas gewra na aanleiding van 'n terloopse opmerking van Lida Muller. Haar saaklike en self-versekerde antwoord van "Ja-aa" het my verder teruggesit. Durf ek hoop, die skynbaar onmoontlike droom? Want ons drome en hoop is wreed vermink in die maande wat gevolg het nadat ons uitgevind het ons eersteling seun is doof gebore. Ek was nog hopeloos te teer om nuwe drome te begin droom wat dieselfde pad kon loop. My wind was nog uit. Julle weet waarvan ek praat. Dit was byna 15 jaar gelede.

In Augustus 2018 het my seun, Henno Conradie, op twee aande vir 2 ure per aand voor amper 900 mense in 'n vol stadsaal tydens sy skool se tweejaarlikse musiekblyspel gepraat soos 'n papegaai. Letterlik soos 'n papegaai. Hy was lago, die bouse Jafar se handlanger in Disney se Aladdin. En, al sê ek dit self, het hy homself uitstekend van sy taak gekwyd, al was daar sterk ooreenkomste tussen sy vertolking van die rol van die geïrriteerde en sarkastiese lago en dié van sy rol as tiener is ons huis (dareem net soms) Op hierdie twee aande is my hart vervul met 'n diepe, diepe dankbaarheid vir al die Genade wat ons oor die jare ontvang het op soveel verskillende wyses en vanuit soveel verskillende oorde. Daar is werklik vir ons gesorg en ons gebede is grootliks beantwoord.

Henno het verlede jaar ook met 96% 'n medalje op die plaaslike Eisteddfod gewen vir onvoorbereide lees en was landwyd tweede in sy ouderdom vir lees by die Radikale Redenaars kompetisie in Pretoria. Ons familie is maar nederig en hou nie daarvan om oor hierdie soort van goed te praat nie, veral nie in die openbaar nie, maar ek doen dit tog, net vir ingeval daar jong ouers daar buite is, wat, soos wat ek en Tara 15 jaar gelede, pas uitgevind het dat hulle nuwe bondeltjie vreugde, waarna hulle so lank uitgesien het, doof is, en stilweg wonder "Sal hy dan eendag kan praat?"

CONGRATULATIONS TO ANA VOIGT (No. 347)



Ana Voigt recently participated in the 2018 Overberg Art Eisteddfod and achieved a cum laude result using oil pastels as medium.

Ana received her cochlear implants when she was 6 months and 11 months old.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JULIA STANDER (No. 496)

Congratulations to Julia Stander who recently completed her B. Comm Accounting degree through the University of Stellenbosch.

Julia received her cochlear implant when she was 16 years 5 months old.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ANJA MINNAAR (No. 189)



Anja Minnaar created an original piece for a recent art project under the theme "nightmares". Anja envisions her cochlear implants or sound processors not to be working as a nightmare. When asked to describe the symbolic meaning, Anja had the following to say: "Die blimp verwys na die Hindenburg ongeluk en storm aan linkerkant voorspel moeilikheid- dat iets gaan gebeur. Skoenlappers is mooi en stil en verwys na waarde van klank en kogleëre inplantings. Klavier is musiek en is rondom die blimp vir frustasies wat ons dowes soms ervaar."

Anja received her cochlear implants when she was 1 year 11 months old and at 4 years of age.

WORLD CONGRESS OF AUDIOLOGY/COCHLEAR IMPLANTS IN EMERGING NATIONS



ENT & CI CONGRESS 2018
www.entcongress.co.za

During October 2018 the cochlear implant audiologists attended both the World Congress of Audiology and the 4th World Conference on Cochlear Implants in Emerging Nations as hosted at the CTICC. All the audiologists from the cochlear implant unit also presented research papers and posters at the conferences and thoroughly enjoyed meeting international colleagues.

MEDICAL NOTES

MEDICAL ALERT DISC: It is recommended that all cochlear implant users should wear a medic 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 medic 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 your processor/implant. Please communicate with your ENT surgeon should you have any questions.

INSURANCE AND PROCESSOR SAFETY:

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 directly from Southern ENT.

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

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

Southern ENT contact details (Monday – Friday 08:00 – 16:30)

✉ customercare@southernear.com

☎ WhatsApp/ SMS only: 066 470 3774

☎ Landline: 012 667 4832.

CHANGE OF CONTACT DETAILS:

In the case of changes to 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 based at Tygerberg Hospital 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 weekends/ public holidays.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Remember to bring your remote assistant with to all your MAPping sessions.
- Nucleus 5, 6 and 7 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).

Phishing emails – please be vigilant

Recently a patient was victim to a phishing scam and we would like to make all patients aware to demonstrate increased vigilance prior to making any payments to service providers. Phishing refers to the fraudulent use of an email sent to access personal information or embed malware. Often within phishing emails there are spelling mistakes, grammatical errors, requests for personal information, or links to invoices/ statements. Please be cautious and vigilant when receiving emails that do not appear to be in the correct format, with obvious errors and not from the correct email ID. Never click on any links or divulge any personal information. If uncertain regarding the contents of the email, rather first call the sender of the email to confirm the validity and contents of the email.

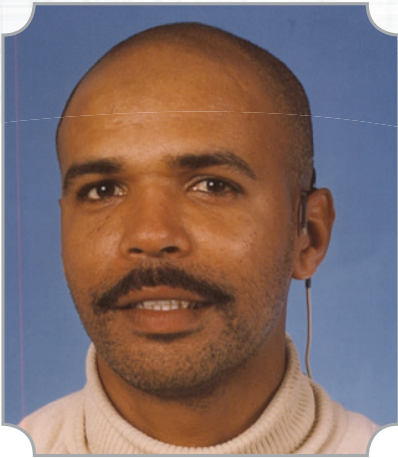
SUPPORT GROUPS:

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.

IN MEMORIAM

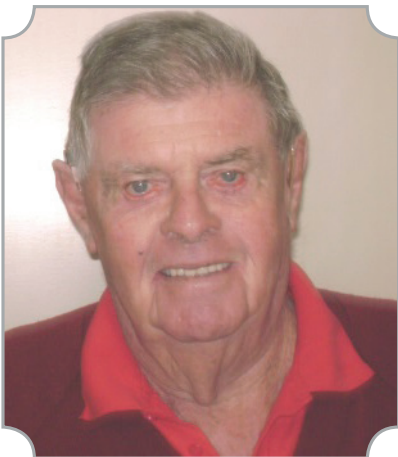
It was with great sadness that we learnt of the passing of the following implantees during 2018:



Mr. James (Buffy) Sylvester (No. 3) –
✠ 11/09/2018. Buffy received his
cochlear implant in 1987



Mr. Erroll Millward (No. 141) –
✠ 22/4/2018. Errol received his
cochlear implant in 2000.



Mr. Alexander Smith (No. 493) –
✠ 25/07/2018. Alexander received his
cochlear implants in 2013 and 2014.