

# LISTEN UP!

## Johannesburg Cochlear Implant News letter Spring Edition 2010

The Johannesburg Cochlear Implant Centre (JCIC) first opened its doors in October 2009 but was officially launched on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2010. It is wonderful for the Johannesburg Cochlear Implant Programme (JCIP) finally to have a home and we hope that it will help us to meet the needs of all our wonderful Cochlear Implant recipients and their families as well as other recipients who are visiting our city.



We are grateful to Southern ENT and The Wits Donald Gordon Medical Centre for making this dream possible. Hopefully we will be able to reach out from our new centre and enrich the lives of many more people.



Communication is vital for any organisation to grow and to this end we have launched our first newsletter. It seems appropriate to do this in September which is Hearing Awareness month to remind us that we are part of a bigger community. We would appreciate your input on what you

would like to see in the newsletter and would love to hear about your experiences. Information and comments can be sent to [admin@jcic.co.za](mailto:admin@jcic.co.za). We aim to compile three or four newsletters a year.

### SOME INTERESTING STATS!

The first person to receive a cochlear implant (CI) through the JCIP was Jorge Moreira who was implanted on 18-01-1992 with a Nucleus CI22M. The surgeon, Dr Hockman, and audiologist, Paddi Roux are still active members of our team.

To date 205 people (243 ears) have received a CI through JCIP (38 bilateral). The youngest was Luc Chauke who was 15 months at the time of implant two people have been implanted in their 80's!

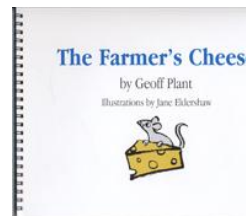
Forty three people currently supported at JCIC have bilateral implants.

Congratulations and good luck to our 2010 recipients: Helen Bluck; Ashton Capell; Maria Paul; Ryan Kruger; Hlekhani Kokong; Bertie Scholtz; MC Claassens; Dakota Wood; Rugard Claassens; Peter Hutchison; Alexander du Preez; Aarifah Ally; Marina Willemse; Ntsako Sambane; Mustapha Abdullahi; Devarn Borien; Annita Pearlman; Michael Swarts; Rachel Botes; Ashleigh Davey; Jordyn Manos; Victor Mohlala; Alexander Lottering; Tumisho Mabelane; Aldine van der Westhuizen; Strauss de Waal

### THE FARMER'S CHEESE

This unique piece of musical theatre was specifically written for children with cochlear implants. Originally a children's book, "The Farmer's Cheese" has been adapted for theatre by 33 year old Scottish composer and the MED-EL Music Fellow, Dr. Oliver Searle, whose works have been performed at music festivals throughout the UK and Europe.

Author of "The Farmer's Cheese", Geoff Plant of MED-EL, who is a distinguished Hearing Rehabilitation expert explains, "Music is a very important part of childhood, and we want to ensure that children with cochlear implants have access to this vital part of our *auditory culture*".



**We are thrilled to announce that MED-EL has arranged for the performers to come to South Africa. The Glasgow based musicians will perform "The Farmers Cheese" in South Africa on 19 October in Pretoria and on 20 October in Johannesburg. Please contact JCIC for more information on venue and time schedule: [admin@jcic.co.za](mailto:admin@jcic.co.za)**

We would like to take this opportunity to raise public awareness about cochlear implants and encourage you to invite classmates and friends to join you at one of the performances. Although the show is designed for children we would love our adults and their families to join us.

To promote these shows Estelle Roberts will be joining Richard Cock as a guest on his radio programme "People of Note". Tune in to Classic FM 102.7 on 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 18:00-21:00 pm.

### FUNDRAISING AND SPONSORSHIP

We are very grateful to the companies and individuals who have helped to get our centre off the ground. Another important form of sponsorship is the assistance that enables some of our recipients to get and maintain their implants.

## HEAR FOR LIFE



The Bidvest Hear For Life Trust was established some years back by 94.7 out of the Christmas Wish. In December 2005 Bidvest became a partner in the trust, providing much needed financial assistance.

In addition "Wackhead" Simpson donates a portion of the sale of his CDs.

The costs involved in a Cochlear Implant can be prohibitive (as you well know!) and the Trust has been set up to assist in this process. There are certain criteria that need to be met in order for a candidate to be considered for an implant, and for assistance from the Trust. An important factor is the family's commitment to the programme and the habilitation process. To date the trust has assisted 10 adults and 17 children to receive a cochlear implant.

## WAGS



During the Soccer World Cup we were contacted by Southern ENT regarding a fundraising event that was being arranged by WAGS (The Wives and Girlfriends of the English soccer team). The charity that they had chosen to support was the 94.7 Bidvest Hear for Life Trust. Dr Hockman and Wendy Deverson attended a glittering affair. (You may have caught the event on Top Billing!) R70 000 was raised for the Trust.

## RUNNING EARS!

It is difficult to work in the field of cochlear implant and not become emotionally involved. There are always special moments and we were privileged to share in one earlier this year. One of our adult CI recipients, Tracey Burnham is a keen runner and together with two of her friends, Terry and Michelle took part in the Two Oceans. Prior to the race they arranged for sponsorship and with the money they raised we were able to assist other members of our cochlear implant family with assessment and maintenance costs. In addition when Tracey upgraded to a CP810 she donated her Freedom Processor to another recipient who was still using a Spectra processor that had been fitted in. Our heartfelt thanks to our intrepid athletes!



## TEAM UPDATE

### YOUR JOHANNESBURG CI TEAM

We all know that the success of a Cochlear Implant involves a whole team. Here is a re-introduction to our current team members:



#### Surgeons:

Dr Maurice Hockman; Dr Duane Mol; Dr Razvi Ahmed; Dr Keith Davidge-Pitts; Dr Ashen Nanan.

#### Mapping Audiologists:



Wendy Deverson;  
Paddi Roux; Leone Nauta; Almeri Scott

#### Therapists:



Estelle Roberts;  
Leanne Ponte; Kerry-Lee Galliard;  
Almeri Scott; Tanya Durrant; Lisa Calligaro; Shireen Govender & therapists at the Centre for Language and Hearing Impaired Children; Danielle van Rooyen & therapists at St Vincents School for the Deaf; Dani Schlesinger and Mubina Khan from Chris Hanj Baragwanath Hospital.

We would like to remind you that if you have had your Cochlear Implant for longer than 3 years we need to see you at least once a year for your annual assessment. For administrative purposes, we would like to see you every year in the month of your switch-on. Please make your appointment in advance by contacting JCIC at **011 – 482 6141** or email [admin@jcic.co.za](mailto:admin@jcic.co.za). People who received their implants in the last three years should be seeing their audiologist more frequently.

Congratulations to Kerry-Lee on the birth of her son.

#### UPDATING THE TEAM

Four members of our speech therapy team are attending a course on Auditory Verbal Therapy, which is being sponsored by Cochlear Europe.

JCIC offers continuing education courses to encourage other professionals to get involved in the field of cochlear implants. Estelle Roberts has run a series of four lectures that have been well attended by speech therapists and audiologists.

## ADULT SUPPORT GROUP

We have an active adult support group that meets four times a year. The meetings usually take the form of a speaker or information session followed by social interaction. Please contact us at [admin@jcic.co.za](mailto:admin@jcic.co.za) or (011)482-6141 for further information.

We would love to start groups for teenagers and for children and their families. Please send us your ideas on what you would like and suggestions on timing and frequency of meetings.

## SACIG

SOUTH AFRICAN COCHLEAR IMPLANT GROUP  
SUID-AFRIKAANSE KOGLEËRE INPLANTINGSROEP



All the members of JCIP are members of the South African Cochlear Implant Group (SACIG). The constitution of SACIG allows for recipients to become members. If anyone is interested in this, please contact JCIC on [admin@jcic.co.za](mailto:admin@jcic.co.za) or 011482 6241



## FANIE DU TOIT

Fanie du Toit, Manager of NCPDSA (The National Council for Persons with Physical Disabilities in SA) is a well known figure in the circle of people with disabilities. Fanie hosts a radio show on RSG on Sundays as well as reaching people via 92 community radio stations like Radio Today in the JHB area.

Fanie understands the everyday problems experienced by people with a hearing loss as he has an acquired profound hearing loss in both ears and is in the process of investigating a cochlear implant for himself.

Fanie is a dynamic and passionate speaker. He recently addressed some of our adult members at a support group meeting and raised the awareness of problems and rights for many people – including the CI team members who were present! He is already involved with the CI adult support group in Cape Town, and he will in future consult once a month from JCIC to support those of you with hearing related issues.

If you need more information on how to contact Fanie du Toit or his course, visit:

[www.ncppdsa.org.za](http://www.ncppdsa.org.za)



## PRODUCT INFORMATION

### The Nucleus System



THE NUCLEUS 5 SYSTEM

In January Cochlear announced its latest hearing implant system the Nucleus 5. It consists of the next generation implant and next generation external processor. The Nucleus 5 is the world's thinnest cochlear implant and is 40 per cent thinner and two-and-a-half times stronger than the previous device. The Nucleus 5 processor has an Automatic Telecoil.

Everyone with a Nucleus Freedom implant can now upgrade to the latest Nucleus 5 processor on the outside. People with the CI24 implant should be able to upgrade at the beginning of next year.

### The MED-EL System

The latest processor is the Opus 2. This processor has a different shape to the previous generations and looks more like a conventional hearing aid.



The main features are:

The OPUS 2 has an integrated state-of-the-art telecoil, a miniature receiver that can be used with a wide variety of telephones, public sound systems and loop systems. Movie theatres, schools, museums and many other locations offer induction loop and infrared systems that make listening easier by minimising background noise.

Contact JCIC for prices and more information: [admin@jcic.co.za](mailto:admin@jcic.co.za)

### INSURANCE OF COCHLEAR IMPLANTS

A question frequently asked of the audiologists is "Where do I insure my cochlear implant and how much will it cost?"

We have done some investigating and have found out that a hearing device will generally be insured at about 4% of its value (i.e. approximately R330.00 per month) BUT usually insurance companies will only insure this type of All-Risk device if you have other general insurance coverage with them.

If anyone has knowledge of better deals or of a company that will allow you to take out insurance for the CI alone we would love to hear from you!

011 482 6141 [admin@jcic.co.za](mailto:admin@jcic.co.za)

**Don't forget to send in your comments, questions and suggestions and stories! Please share them with us at [admin@jcic.co.za](mailto:admin@jcic.co.za) or 2711482-6141 and we will include them or reply to them in our next edition.**