

Southern Sounds

A Professional Communication



Issue 03 /Dec 2011

WELCOME

Southern ENT has had an exciting and busy few months. We have joined in celebrating the first cochlear implant done in South Africa over 25 years ago. Can you believe that 'writing a map' to the first sound processor took half an hour and there was only one programme on a body-worn sound processor? This was all done using DOS. One appointment could last up to one day!

We have also hosted Cochlear's Director of Western Europe, Chris Bertrand. He speaks so passionately about the future, miniaturisation of technology, and research and development Cochlear commits to and we know that we are part of an exciting era of technological advancement and development for those with moderate-profound hearing loss and those who require BAHA.

A most sincere thank you to all of you for your support, friendship and leadership throughout 2011. As we all start unwinding towards the end of 2011, may I remind you of a saying by Hemingway: 'Finding some quiet time in your life, I think, is hugely important'.

Janet Wiegman, General Manager



NEWS

Cochlear UK visits South Africa

Southern ENT was privileged to host Cochlear's Director of Western Europe, Chris Bertrand and his colleague, Stuart Thomas in South Africa. They thoroughly enjoyed meeting with cochlear implant and Baha teams and seeing both private and public sectors. They were delighted to be part of the 25 year celebration and achievements of the Tygerberg Hospital's cochlear implant team in November. Hearing their updates and discussions make us realise that we have partnered with a great company and we look forward to our future together with Cochlear™.



Janet, Chris Bertrand and Dr Maurice Hockman of JCIP



Stuart Thomas (in front, 2nd from right) with the Chris Hani Baragwannath team



Stuart Thomas with the Pta team



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Workshops to demystify cochlear implants

During October Southern ENT hosted two very successful workshops on cochlear implants (CI) for referring audiologists in Gauteng. Various experts presented on topics like new-born hearing screening, CI evaluation, surgery basics, CI for adults, the 1st few months after activation and rehabilitation.

The feedback was so positive that we decided to duplicate these workshops in Cape Town, Durban and Bloemfontein early in 2012.

Audiologists who want to attend can contact our CI specialist, Tamara, at tamaraturton@gmail.com. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to give new hope to your moderate to profoundly deaf clients.



CLINICAL FOCUS COCHLEAR IMPLANTS

Effect of front-end processing on cochlear implant performance in children

The difficulties that cochlear implant recipients have in noisy environments are well reported in literature, though almost solely for adult recipients. Dr Jace Wolfe and colleagues at the Hearts for Hearing centre recently investigated the potential benefit provided by Cochlear's Everyday Program (ASC + ADRO) for children in noisy conditions. The observed improvements in speech perception performance are both noteworthy and significant. [front-end-processing](#)

New review links deep electrode insertion with lower pitch perception, higher risk of pitch confusion and lower hearing performance

'Potential benefits from deeply inserted cochlear implant electrodes' were recently reviewed by Dr. Paul J. Boyd in an Ear & Hearing article and during an ESPCI 2011 expert roundtable. Research indicates that deep electrode insertion can give the desired lower pitch perception but also result in a higher risk of pitch confusion, degradation of hearing performance, intra-cochlear trauma and loss of residual hearing. Cochlear's electrode design philosophy is in line with the main outcomes from the review and the round table. Both the modiolar near Contour Advance and the new Slim Straight Electrode are designed for minimal trauma insertion into the "hearing zone", which covers approximately 400° to 450° insertion (Cochlear, 2011). [deep-insertion-study](#)

MRI for CI patients and candidates - Current important considerations

Delivering a thought provoking presentation recently Dr Zarowski highlighted the importance of MRI for CI patients and candidates. [Latest news](#)

CLINICAL FOCUS BAHAR®

Significantly less soft tissue reactions with Cochlear™ Baha® BI300

Baha surgery reduces soft tissue in the area around the abutment to minimise skin movement and reduce the risk for skin-related complications. Despite extensive soft tissue reduction, the most common complications associated with Baha implants are skin reactions around the abutment. This article reviews the impact that implant design has on soft tissue outcomes and it reports the latest findings from the Third International Symposium on Bone-Conduction Hearing- Craniofacial Osseointegration (Osseo) in Sarasota, Florida 2011. [Soft tissue](#)



DID YOU KNOW?

INSPIRATION

DID YOU KNOW

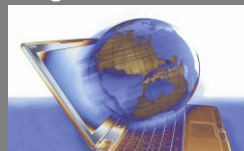
- As you will know, the externally worn CI sound processor incurs costs after the six month and three year warranty period. This document serves to guide patients and their families in realising the long term costing involved. It should also be used to encourage all your patients to insure their sound processors. [Longterm costing 2011](#)
- One of our CI specialists recently enquired if one can implant a CI on the same side as a VP shunt and if the magnetic fields of the CI and VP Shunt might interfere with each other. A Cochlear™ clinical specialist advised: "In case a VP Shunt needs to be combined with a CI for medical reasons, implantation of the CI on the contralateral side is recommended. In addition the VP shunt manufacturer SOPHYSA provides a shunt system with additional safety for accidental valve adjustment that could be explored." For more information, contact our CI specialist at tamaraturton@gmail.com.
- 2012 marks the beginning of the roll-out of the Listening and Spoken Language South Africa (LSL SA) training programme across the country. Eleven auditory verbal practice graduates, sponsored by Cochlear-Southern ENT, will be training individuals who are working with hearing impaired children. The closing date for applications for the training programme was 31 October 2011, but if you have any queries please contact the group via email: lsouthafrica@gmail.com. 2012 promises to be a very exciting year!
- Untreated hearing loss may reduce brain volume: Researchers have found that the gray matter density of the auditory areas is lower in people with reduced hearing ability. Hearing systems thus help to preserve the brain. Read more: hear-it.org

Reminder: Earn CPD points

Professionals can now earn CPD points by listening to excellent online courses on the Cochlear Academy website. Visit www.cochlearacademy.com and select the online courses link. Request a certificate by filling out the evaluation form. Remember to give your full name, HPCSA registration number and email address.

HAPPY LEARNING

This service is also available on the website of the South African Audiologist Association (SAAA) in the member section under the CPD tab. Visit them at www.audiologysa.co.za



Cochlear™ professional knowledge... at your fingertips

Now you can access professional support and information any time, day or night, through Cochlear's new online resource for professionals. It offers:

- Patient management support
 - Troubleshooting assistance
 - Current professional opinions and knowledge
 - Scientific and research information
 - Quarterly email newsletter
- Visit the site now to request your personal login:

www.cochlear.com/uk/about-professionals-website

Downloadable content

This edition features the following reading material:

- Baha study: [Stability, survival and tolerability](#)
- CI article: [Optimal timing for bilateral CI in children](#)

HAPPY READING

THE SOUND OF SOUTHERN ENT



New website

Those of you who have not done so yet, please visit our new website and use the information to your own benefit (e.g. to introduce or explain cochlear implants or Baha® to new patients).

We have recently also published beautiful desk pads for 2012 on our website. See if you can find them and then grab the opportunity to print yourself one. Or contact us if you can't find it.

www.southernear.com

New employee

We would like to welcome Lettie Sithole at Southern ENT. She will be helping us with office administration and rendering a secretarial function to Janet, our general manager.

Welcome Lettie!

Contact us

Tel: 012 – 667 4460/4971

Cell: 073 803 9682

Fax: 012 – 667 2362

Fax to email: 086 623 4909

New address

Please note that our postal address has changed:

PO Box 17198

Lyttelton

0140

EDITOR'S NOTE

What a year! From all of us at Southern ENT, we would like to thank you for your continued support during 2011. We wish you a blessed holiday season and are looking forward to the year ahead. It is our business to make sure we **HEAR OUR CLINICS NOW. AND IN 2012. AND ALWAYS.**

Warm regards:

Janet, Tamara, Nicolette, Marie, Roenel, Magdel, Lettie, Nicolene (editor).

Next edition: March 2012. Remember to send us your comments, clinic news, or submit that article at info@southernear.com.

