

# ReSound

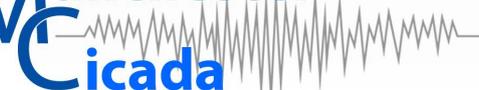
For people with Cochlear Implants

Summer 2015

Issue 48



*The Queen Victoria at St Peter Port in Guernsey*

**Manchester**  
**Cicada**  a charity supporting implant patients

This newsletter has been produced on behalf of the Manchester CICADA Charity

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## Editorial

Welcome to the summer edition of ReSound, we hope you are enjoying your holidays and that 'summer' in the UK will start really soon!

This edition carries the sad news about Jonathan Salas's passing in July and we include his obituary which also appears on the website, where there is a facility, where anyone who wants to leave a comment can do so.

We have been busy around the region since the last issue, with visits to the newly refurbished Whitworth Gallery in Manchester, the bi-annual BBQ in Wales and 'meet ups' at the Ocean Treasure restaurant in Middleton and the Italian Orchard restaurant in Preston.

All of the events are a great opportunity for people to get together and catch up with things and very often we learn from others about different issues and situations.

We have chosen the venues for both the XMAS lunch and next years AGM, which we will be contacting all of you about shortly.

As with all organized events we are trying to make sure everyone can get to the venues as easily as possible so its important that you let us know if you have your own transport or not then we can arrange lifts etc.

Once again if anyone has a story they would like to share or an issue they would like to raise please contact the editor, Hedy Williams, so that we can publish it in the next ReSound.

You can contact her via email, [editor@manchestercicada.org.uk](mailto:editor@manchestercicada.org.uk), by filling a resound form in on the website on this page <http://www.manchestercicada.org.uk/resound-2>

or by letter writing to 107 Manchester Road, Hyde, Cheshire SK14 2BX

Have a good break and we hope to see you soon.

Kevin Williams  
Chairman

# News from around the World

## Father gets tattoo to match daughter's cochlear implant



The day before his daughter had her second cochlear implant inserted, Alistair Campbell decided he would get one, too. The major difference being that his doesn't work, and he can never take it off: it's a tattoo.

Six year-old Charlotte Campbell was profoundly deaf, meaning she couldn't hear anything at all without a cochlear implant. "Charlotte's journey has been quite a hard journey for her and for us," Taupo-based Alistair Campbell said "The tattoo was a tribute - this was all about her, not me."

He surprised Charlotte with the ink art on Tuesday evening - the day before her operation. The young girl described it as "cool", before checking the other side of her father's head for a second implant. "We have a close father-daughter bond, and I thought it would be quite fitting for me to do that. "As she grows older, she'll understand the love behind it."

Charlotte had her first implant put in when she was 4. Her confidence had been transformed as a result, her parents said. With a second implant, her hearing ability will be further improved. "You can imagine, if you only had one ear, how hard it would be. It would be like having just one speaker going on the stereo." Anita Campbell said before her daughter got her first implant she was "quite introverted." Now, she is "the life of the party".

The Hearing House in Auckland - a charity for deaf children with cochlear implants and hearing aids - said the tattoo was a great way to showcase the impact of cochlear implants. "Charlotte has been coming to the Hearing House for a couple of years now, and she's made great progress" spokeswoman Mary Jane Boland said.

Story Source. Fairfax Media New Zealand

## Report into speech perception, cognitive function in adults over 65 with Cochlear Implants

Hearing impairment is associated with cognitive decline. In cases of severe to profound hearing loss where there is no benefit from conventional amplification (i.e. hearing aids), cochlear implantation that uses direct electrical stimulation of the auditory nerve has proven successful and selected older patients are among those who can benefit, according to the study background.

Isabelle Mosnier, M.D., of Assistance Publique-Hopitaux de Paris, France, and coauthors examined the relationship

between cognitive function and hearing restoration with cochlear implantation in older patients at 10 tertiary referral centers between 2006 and 2009. The study included 94 patients (ages 65 to 85) with profound postlingual (after speech has developed) hearing loss who were evaluated before cochlear implantation and then six and 12 months after.

Results show cochlear implantation was associated with improved speech perception in quiet and in noise, quality of life and depression scores, with 76 percent

of patients giving responses that indicate no depression at 12 months after implantation vs. 59 percent before implantation. As early as six months after cochlear implantation, improved average scores in all cognitive domains were seen. More than 80 percent of the patients (30 of 37) who had the poorest cognitive scores before implantation improved their cognitive function one year after implantation. In contrast, patients with the best cognitive performance before implantation showed stable postimplantation results, although there was a decline in some patients, according to the results.

“Our study demonstrates that hearing rehabilitation using cochlear implants in the elderly is associated with improvements in impaired cognitive function. Further research is needed to evaluate the long-term influence of hearing restoration on cognitive decline and its effect on public health,” the study concludes.

**Story Source:**

The above post is reprinted from materials provided by **The JAMA Network Journals**. *Note: Materials may be edited for content and length.*

## Help from MED-EL for those back-to-school blues



Whether your child is starting school for the first time or moving up a class, the new school year can present challenges for children, parents and teaching staff. To help make your child's transition to their new class as easy as possible, MED-EL has a range of resources for you to share with your child's teacher, from information about hearing loss and cochlear implants to troubleshooting guides.

For pre-school and infant school teachers MED-EL's Kids' Corner provides simple answers to difficult questions. In colourful, easy-to-understand videos Mellie the elephant explains the journey of sound, the anatomy of the ear, and how hearing works. The videos provide a host of information for all those "what and how questions" about cochlear implants and hearing. To find out more, visit: <http://www.medel.com/children-kids-corner>.

MED-EL can also provide a poster showing how hearing works for your child's teacher to display in the classroom.

The new school year also means homework! Soundscape is a fun, online resource that will help your child improve their listening skills. There are games for all ages, from tots to teens, with increasing levels of difficulty plus both male and female voices. Additional materials are available to download with lots more fun ideas. <http://www.medel.com/resources-for-success-soundscape>.

Nobody likes problems, but everyone appreciates a speedy solution, so make sure your child's teacher is aware of the online troubleshooting guide on MED-EL's website. If a smartphone App is more convenient, EasyGuide is an excellent reference tool and can be downloaded free of charge from the App Store or Google Play. Links to our troubleshooting options and rehabilitation materials to download can be found at: <http://www.medel.com/bridge-rehabilitation>.

Please contact [conferences@medel.co.uk](mailto:conferences@medel.co.uk) for orders or further information.

# Bi Annual BBQ at Cefn Dhu in Wales

On 11th July we all met up in the Welsh Hills at Heather and Denis Fitzgerald's beautiful place for a get together and BBQ.



Members travelled from all over the North West most by car but one by motorbike! And all agreed that it was good to meet again.

The weather was kind in the main, alternating between very hot sunshine and overcast weather with cool winds, fortunately there was lots of delicious food to be had and shaded seating when needed.

It had been two years since the last BBQ there had been many changes at their home and the surrounding buildings, which are to do with Denis's work.

The house is surrounded by acres of woodland with a wide variety of trees, which Heather and Denis have planted and developed over many years and the area has a wide variety of wildlife ranging from expected woodland creatures such as squirrels and woodland birds to the more exotic Pine Martens!



You do not often come across a woodland in the UK with Eucalyptus trees in it as well as many more native varieties. So abundant and well developed is the wood and the surrounding gardens that Heather has won national awards for her work. Denis is also an inventor who runs an internationally acclaimed business from his home employing a number of staff who are lucky to have such a beautiful place to work.

After a magnificent meal and many fond reminiscences we all left to go our separate ways.

# BATTLING IN BUXTON

By John Newton

Having swallowed the anchor, my move to a land based life in Buxton coincided with the annual arts festival there based on the famous Buxton Opera House.

Unfortunately, when I toddled down there to book a ticket for a talk which I was keen to attend about Charles Dickens by the amazing Miriam Margolis, I found that provision for the deaf was sadly lacking. There is no induction loop only an infra red system which I know from experience doesn't work for me and probably not for anyone else either, it requires the wearing of a cumbersome headset, and unlike an induction loop, it does not work via your hearing aid (or CI), it's just aural amplification really even when it's working which in my experience elsewhere it usually is not.

Disappointing! So I wrote a polite letter to the CEO Simon Glinn offering to share my experience of deafness and deaf people so as to help him improve access for the deaf in the hope that next year I might be able to enjoy the festival programme (which is

a very interesting and varied one.)

Up to the time of writing I have had no reply in spite of sending a follow up letter and another conversation with the (friendly and sympathetic) booking office clerk. Hoping to break this deadlock I also contacted my local councillor and my local MP, Andrew Bingham. It proved easier to get a response from the latter and I have an appointment to see him in a few days. My councillor did eventually respond to my e mail and has indicated her willingness to help although she seems to be making little progress either and is strangely reluctant to meet with me..

I do find this failure even to acknowledge my letter both frustrating and puzzling. When I told my son about it recently he said "they probably think you are a nut"! I am afraid me might be right!

However I plan to be persistent but polite and hope to eventually demonstrate my sanity.

Stay tuned!

## Cochlear launches industry first 'true wireless' experience

Cochlear Limited (ASX: COH) the global leader in implantable hearing solutions has launched the cochlear implant industry's first true wireless accessories, delivering clear sound without the need for bulky neck-worn components required by other systems.

The range of accessories includes a Mini Microphone, Phone Clip and TV Streamer, giving Cochlear™ Nucleus® 6 sound processor users an instant improvement in their ability to hear in challenging situations, so they can focus on what's important.

The accessories use the same 2.4 GHz

technology platform as Bluetooth® and Wi-Fi devices. This gives a clear and secure connection without the interference and signal drops associated with traditional wireless systems.

'We're proud to be offering our recipients leading technology that will bring enormous benefits,' said Dr Chris Roberts, CEO/President of Cochlear Limited. 'True wireless freedom not only means a significantly easier and more enjoyable hearing experience, it also helps recipients use modern technology like anyone else, so they don't have to miss out on what most of us take for granted.'

## MINI MICROPHONE



### Key features:

- Range of up to 7 metres with clear line of sight
- 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hours of talk time on a single battery charge
- Recharges in 3 hours with included charger
- Private and secure connection
- Activated at the push of a button
- Reconnects automatically when signal is broken
- Low battery light indicator
- Easy-to-use volume control

Hearing in noisy situations or over a distance, such as class rooms, lecture halls, offices or busy restaurants can be challenging for many people. The Mini Microphone gives recipients the advantage of having the speech they want to hear transmitted directly to their sound processor by simply clipping it onto a companion or a teacher's collar.

The Mini Microphone can also be plugged into other devices such as MP3 players and computers so recipients can enjoy the sound with the freedom to move around.

## PHONE CLIP



### Key features:

- 6 hours of talk time
- 80 hours of standby time
- Call reject and tracker, last number dialed and voice dial functions
- Simultaneous connection to two Bluetooth devices (such as your smartphone and tablet)
- Quality stereo sound when streaming music
- Private and secure connection

The Bluetooth-enabled wireless capability of the Phone Clip gives recipients the convenience of a hands-free connection to friends and family, and a clarity of sound that gives them more confidence in using the phone. They can make calls, have conversations and even listen to music without having to take the phone out of their pocket. Small and lightweight, the device is ideal for the car, for work and when on the go.

## TV STREAMER



### Key features:

Streams stereo sound directly to your sound processor

Range of up to 7 metres

Set so you can hear both audio devices and sounds around you

Pair with as many sound processors as desired

Install and forget it - always stays paired

The TV Streamer delivers crisp, clear stereo sound directly from a recipient's TV to their sound processor, while still letting them hear the conversation around them. This means they can have their own personal volume without making TV too loud for others, and can enjoy their favourite shows and discuss them with friends and family at the same time.

This innovation is a result of a technology partnership between Cochlear and GN ReSound, another leader in hearing technology solutions. The range of true wireless accessories is currently available with the Cochlear Baha<sup>®</sup> 4 Sound Processor and with the Cochlear Nucleus 6 Sound Processor.

The Wireless Accessories for Nucleus 6 are available across Europe, Middle-East, Africa as of 19 March 2015.

## MED-EL's supports hearing screening at the Special Olympics European Games

### MED<sup>o</sup>EL

MED-EL has become a sponsor of the Special Olympics Healthy Hearing programme which provides free hearing screening and care for Special Olympics athletes.

The Special Olympics was founded in 1968 to offer sports training and athletic competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

Dr Ingeborg Hochmair, CEO of MED-EL states: "Like almost no other sports event, the Special Olympics show that even with a

handicap everyone can achieve ambitious goals. This is a message we want to support, as we feel exactly the same. Hearing loss often remains undetected or un-served. Among Special Olympics athletes the number of these cases is even higher. Today, technological developments make it possible that hearing loss doesn't have to be an obstacle anymore."

For more information about the Special Olympics visit [www.specialolympics.org](http://www.specialolympics.org).

# Italian Orchard meet-up

Saturday 15th August 2015

A group of us recently met at the Italian Orchard Restaurant in Preston for lunch. The meet up was organized by Beryl Hardman and thanks to her efforts, fourteen of us sat down to a delicious meal. We had a new member attending, Phillip Hinchliffe, it was a good opportunity to introduce Phillip to other members and hear his story of how he became a cochlear implant user.

We look forward to the next event, which will be at the Manchester Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI) on the 17th September 2015.



## Brain adjustments to a loss of a sense

KU Leuven biologists have discovered a molecular on-off switch that controls how a mouse brain responds to vision loss. When the switch is on, the loss of sight in one eye will be compensated by the other eye, but also by tactile input from the whiskers. When the switch is off, only the other eye will take over. These findings may help improve patient susceptibility to sensory prosthetics such as **cochlear implants** or bionic eyes.

Our brain adjusts to changes of all kind. This brain plasticity is useful for neural development and learning, but also comes into play when the nervous system is damaged. For instance, when we lose sight in one eye, our brain no longer receives sensory input from that eye, but it will compensate for that loss.

Research in adult mice has revealed two types of neuroplasticity in response to vision loss. "When a mouse loses sight in one eye, the remaining eye starts sending additional signals to the area in the brain that used to be served by the lost eye," biochemist Julie Nys from the KU Leuven Laboratory for Neuroplasticity and Neuroproteomics explains. "After a while,

the whiskers of the mouse — its sense of touch — step in as well. After a couple of weeks, the 'lost' area in the brain is entirely reclaimed and its brain activity is almost as high as it was before." This phenomenon, whereby the brain responds to sensory loss by combining input from several sensory systems, is known as cross-modal neuroplasticity.

### Age-related response to vision loss

The KU Leuven researchers discovered that cross-modal plasticity is age-dependent in an unexpected way: "In adult mice both the remaining eye and the whiskers compensate for the lack of vision in one eye. But in adolescent mice, only the functioning eye takes over. And yet, you would expect more plasticity in younger animals, because the brain undergoes major transformations during adolescence."

What is more, the study shows that the adolescent response can also be triggered in the brain of adult mice. "When you expose adult mice to darkness before removing their eye, they recover differently: their other senses take over to a smaller degree, similar to what happens in adolescent mice. The brain's response,

in other words, rejuvenates when adult mice spend time in the dark.”

### **On-off switch in the brain**

The brain controls which senses compensate for the loss of sight in one eye, but the underlying process has always been a mystery — until now. “Adolescent and adult mice have the same brain structure, so that cannot explain their different responses to sensory loss. Instead, we discovered a molecular on-off switch that controls whether or not the whiskers take over.”

“After comparing different molecules with an impact on brain activity, we decided to manipulate neuroplasticity with indiplon, a sedative that affects the communication between brain cells and is thus similar to the activity-reducing neurotransmitter GABA. In adult mice, indiplon suppressed cross-modal plasticity: the lack of vision in one eye was compensated by the remaining eye, but not by the whiskers. You could say that we managed to ‘turn off’ the whiskers.”

### **Clinical applications**

In view of medical applications, the new

insights into neuroplasticity — involving one or more senses — are crucial, Professor Lut Arckens explains: “Deaf or hard-of-hearing people can benefit from cochlear implants. In young patients who were treated in time, these work very well. In other patients, however, the treatment is no longer effective, as the auditory areas in their brain have already been taken over by other senses. This outcome is difficult to reverse, but we might be able to prevent it by suppressing cross-modal plasticity. In other cases, by contrast, we could support optimal recovery by boosting cross-modal plasticity. But these applications require a lot of further research. Our study paves the way by showing that we need to pay more attention to how sensory systems influence each other in the brain, for instance after surgery.”

### **Story Source:**

The above post is reprinted from materials provided by **KU Leuven**. *Note: Materials may be edited for content and length.*

## **HearLIFE with the new SONNET audio processor from MED-EL**

# **MED<sup>o</sup>EL**

Never miss a moment, thanks to the superior responsiveness of MED-EL’s new SONNET audio processor.

### **For an effortless, more natural hearing experience**

The SONNET has been specially designed to provide optimal hearing performance so you can enjoy a more natural hearing experience in all situations. It features dual microphone technology and directionality to help you pick up sounds from different angles, as well as automatic volume control, wind noise reduction and automatic sound

management (ASM) that instantly adapts to changes in any listening environment.

The SONNET takes a single second to wake up from standby mode and milliseconds to switch between its four listening programmes with no time lag, providing you instant access to hearing, whether at school, work, home or in your favourite restaurant.

And, at an ultra-light 10.6g INCLUDING BATTERIES you will hardly know it’s there!

### **In sync with all your devices**

With built-in 2.4GHz wireless-ready

connectivity and flexible direct audio input options, the SONNET can connect to nearly any external audio source or assistive listening device (ALD), making it ideal for listening to music on the go.

The integrated telecoil lets you connect wirelessly to a wide variety of audio-streaming systems and an accessory battery pack enables direct audio input from any device with a headphone jack.

The SONNET audio processor is also water friendly with an IP54 protection rating.

For more information about SONNET, including water-resistance, long battery life and colour options, or other MED-EL products and accessories, visit [www.medel.com](http://www.medel.com).

hearLIFE with MED-EL.

## Jonathan Salas - 1959 - 2015



It is with deep sadness that we have to report that after a long fight against Motor Neurone Disease, Jonathan sadly passed away on Friday 10th July in hospital with Lynda, his wife, by his side.

Jonathan was our Hon. Secretary for 12 years taking over in 2002. Being familiar with computers and email he was able to organise club papers and affairs efficiently, working with the Chairman Gordon Ledward.

He continued to work with later changes of Chairman and Hon. Treasurer, always supporting and encouraging the committee and all club members, very

often giving up his holiday allowance to come to events and working tirelessly in the background to ensure that the club ran smoothly.

He was heavily involved in the process of us becoming a charity and even when in the middle of his illness was still involved in its day-to-day activities.

As a larger than life character who combined a Scottish approach to financial matters with a generosity of spirit he was always a steadying influence when dealing with contentious issues and never had a bad word to say about anyone.

Jonathan moved from his school in Scotland to live in Chile with his mother and stepfather, and from there went to the University of Texas to study Political Science.

After University he decided to train as a chef and when his family moved back to England he worked as a chef in Warrington.

After meeting Lynda, who was to become his wife, he moved to live in Wales.

This quote from Jonathan's Facebook profile sums him up.

'The honest man, tho' e'er sae poor, is king o'men for a' that '

## ReSound 'Notes' section

### Next Generation Text Service

If anyone is interested in getting some workshop hands on experience with the NGTS app then please let us know and we will try and arrange some workshops around the region.

### Upcoming Events

This is an updated list of events taking us up to the AGM next year. Details for each event will be sent out at least a month before the actual date but the list is

provided for your diaries. If you would like to attend or would like further information to help you decide please contact us via email or post using any of the contact details below.

### Description

Museum of Science and Industry, (MOSI) Manchester - Thursday 17th September 2015

St Georges Hall visit, Liverpool – Friday 23rd October 2015

Xmas Lunch, Villlage Hotel Warrington – 28th November 2015

Conference and AGM, Warrington – 19th March 2016

By Kevin Williams

## Background Noise Research

Manchester University have recently been carrying out research into how different background noises affect people using hearing devices such as cochlear implants and hearing aids. Several members of Cicada were asked to take part in the research and have been to two or three sessions at Manchester.

The objective of the exercise is to gather as much information the ability of the user to continue to distinguish sounds in spite of the different types of background noise.

The majority of hearing devices now being provided to patients are set up by using software which is downloaded from a computer when the processor or hearing aid is being set up for the first time.

Most of us now have the ability to change programs or channels to try and help with different situations from quiet rooms to noisy situations such as being on the street, each of these channels works

because of the software is programmed differently for each channel.

This ability to change how a device works by just changing the software has been a major breakthrough in recent years, allowing one standard device to be tailored to each user with the minimum of fuss.

The research will allow the manufacturers of the Implant processors and other hearing devices to improve their software and allow the rest of us to manage better in different situations.

In conjunction with this research we are in the process of updating the Rehab App and the Web version of the App to allow the user to add background noise to the exercises.

The link to the Rehab exercises on our website is:

<http://www.manchestercicada.org.uk/wp/wp-content/rehab/main.html>

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