

South of England Cochlear Implant Centre

SOECIC Chinese New Year Party

The Chinese New Year Party on Saturday 19th February 2011 at the Staff and Social Club was a great success. We had close to 300 attendees and it was great to see so many familiar faces.

The Martial Arts performance, which included Guoping (one of our audiologists) was by the Shaolin Martial Arts Club from University of Southampton. The group practised for more than a month to prepare for the Chinese New Year Party! It was fast and furious and very exciting. They showed both the ancient traditional and modern martial arts forms. Some of our children even reported they started mimicking martial arts after watching the performance! Good for them!



The Waterside Lion Dance Group performed a fabulous Dragon Dance with their magnificent drums being a big hit with many of the attendees.

Many of the children participated in the craft activities as well as having their faces painted. The adults also enjoyed a challenging quiz. The tombola proved very popular and all of the prizes were snapped up very quickly. The Chinese buffet seemed to be a great success too.

It was really a fantastic party which we all enjoyed!

We would like to give a big thank you to all the patients, staff and to the implant companies who were kind enough to donate prizes for the tombola and raffle.

Cochlear Implants – the impact on people around you

For some time we have been thinking about how to give new patients more information about SOECIC in a way that they can share it with their friends and family. First of all we decided to produce a leaflet (which is now ready for new patients) about changes in the ways that families communicate when the profoundly deaf person has more access to sound following cochlear implantation. Sometimes the partner (and even the children) of the patient finds his or her **role as ‘spokesperson’ changes radically and they can feel a bit left out.**

Following on from this we tried to think of ways in which we could give more information about the assessment process **to patients’ wider circle, who might not be able to attend the Centre and who might feel anxious about what the process entails.**

We decided to make a film, and some of you might have seen the camera in action at the Chinese New Year party at the University in February. Several patients, both adults and children, and their family members were interviewed, and the film will also show group meetings, hearing tests, and tuning sessions.

The DVD will be available to all patients and we will also have a link to the film on the SOECIC website. We hope it will be ready some time this summer. We are asking for as many people as possible to help finance this very worthwhile patient resource. Please do send us a cheque payable to ***The University of Southampton*** if you possibly can and send it to The South of England Cochlear Implant Centre for the attention of Mrs Nikki Stephens. Any contributions, big or small would be very gratefully received.

Reminder: Have you changed your GP recently? If so, please could you remember to let us know.

Luke recommends becoming an ASA Swimming Volunteer!

“My name is Luke Bryant and I am 17 years old and profoundly deaf. I am a student at Mary Hare Grammar School currently studying my A levels.

I am also a Young Volunteer for the Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) and this is why I am writing this article as I want to scream and shout and let everyone know the opportunities out there and how swimming can be enjoyed by everyone no matter what age or disabilities you have.

In October 2010 I applied to be a ‘Young disabled volunteer’ for ASA and I was overjoyed to be accepted. At the time I was not aware of how many opportunities this would give me and with only a few months into my training I realise how privileged I am to be part of this. ASA is the governing body for swimming who are working with volunteers, with aims to increase the number of young disabled people volunteering in the swimming community. Through volunteering, young people are able to get real life experience and will feel empowered to tackle any difficult situation in the future. The volunteers are being encouraged to become role models themselves.

I work closely with Francesca Kelly who has been an inspiration and has given me everything along with support and encouragement to succeed. Francesca arranged for me to volunteer at the DSE Juniors in Sheffield from the 25th to 27th February. This was going to be my first experience volunteering for ASA. I was nervous but at the same time excited; this was very new to me but I was looking forward to meeting the other volunteers and helping in any way possible. I travelled with my mother by car on Friday afternoon and met up with Francesca that evening at the hotel to run over the schedule for the weekend ahead - There were 15 volunteers in total.

This was it my first day! We arrived at Pond Forge bright and early Saturday morning and given our jobs for the day. I was Basket Marshall, **carrying the baskets with the swimmers’ belongings to the relevant place** for when they finished the race and collecting the empty baskets ready for the next race. Within a few minutes of my arrival I realised the large scale of the competition and was totally overwhelmed. These children had different degrees of disabilities (deafness, blindness, missing limbs, learning difficulties...) but had all come together to participate in this competition, all very happy and enjoying the moment and this is when you realize how lucky you are to be here! It was a very long, tiring and hot day but very worth it.



The second day was even more rewarding as I had been given the job to assist with escorting the children to the starting line, making sure they were all there and knew which lane they were going to. This gave me a chance to talk to them and I was amazed at how far some had travelled. The majority was from across the United Kingdom & Ireland but I met children that had travelled from as far as Greece! But they were all here enjoying a sport they loved, telling me of times that they want to achieve in their race and their experiences so far! The morning ended with a medal ceremony and goodbyes to all the lovely people I had met.

Overall, this experience can only be described as once in a life time opportunity and makes you realize that you should give anything a go; you never know what you can achieve! **Can't wait for the next one.....**

I am now training to be a swimming coach and I am taking my Level 1 exam in June and taking my N.R.A.S.T.C to support this. I also volunteer at my local swimming pool with the Down's syndrome swimming club.

This has all been thanks to ASA!! <http://www.swimming.org/asa/news/volunteering/young-disabled-volunteers-back-swimming-at-dse-juniors/8235/>

Go on give it ago. Join your local swimming club and have fun!”

Another swimmer in the news!

Stuart Ring is an active member of a local swimming club but went the extra mile on a freezing Christmas Day joining in the annual swim across Weymouth harbour ! With air temperatures around -3°C the sea was a little warmer at +5°C, Stuart swam with over 50 others across the Harbour coming in third place. Well done Stuart for raising over **£200 for the Dorset Deaf Children's Society. Stuart also competed at the Great Britain Deaf Swimming Championships for the fourth year in succession. At the K2 Centre, Crawley Stuart scooped 4 gold medals to add to those won in previous years .**



Patient News

Georgia's mother wrote saying:



“Georgia has been attending a local dance school once a week after school on a Wednesday. She's in a class of 20 children learning street jazz, rock and roll and disco. Just before Easter she took her first exam, along with the rest of the children. She had to do two learned routines in front of an examiner by herself, with just her teacher and not only did she pass, she got a

Merit and 94%! The exam was with the ISTD (Imperial Society of Teachers of Dance) and the exam was Under 6 Level 1.

She also participated in the Checkendon Horse Show a couple of weekends ago and did her first clear round and won a rosette! Albeit, my friend led the pony and I walked next to Georgia to make sure she didn't fall off over the jumps! She was so proud of herself! I really must stop complaining about her lack of balance!”

Well done Georgia!



Rob Garnett wrote to tell us about his experiences in a research project about hearing in noisy places:



“Earlier 2010 and again in October I was invited to take part in a research project by the MRC Institute of Hearing Research at Nottingham University (www.ihr.mrc.ac.uk). Previously I had been contacted by my Cochlear Implant Centre at Southampton and asked if I would be interested in taking part. The MRC Institute of Hearing Research had carried out this "Hearing in noisy places" study with people with good hearing, people with two hearing aids and with one and two cochlear implants. At that time I was the first person to take part in the study with two Cochlear implants, although subsequently several others followed. I had my first Cochlear Nucleus 24 fitted 11 years ago

and the second 3 years later. The second implant was part of Cochlear's research project when approximately 30 people in the UK took part to compare hearing with an implant in one ear or both ears. My first implant changed my life and the second made hearing even better, particularly when identifying the location of sounds.

For many people with hearing impairment, understanding a speaker in a noisy environment such as a restaurant or pub can be a daunting and difficult task and the MRC Institute of Hearing Research study was to find out how the brain deals with noise and reverberation. The information gained from the study is regularly discussed with manufacturers of hearing devices and will thus help to improve implants and hearing aids in the future.

Part 1 of the study consisted of several experiments in which I was asked to listen to a variety of sounds in a special sound studio (anechoic chamber). I was asked to judge where a sound was coming from or had to repeat sentences played in noise. This took place over two and half days which I found mentally quite demanding. However, we took regular breaks and I knew it was well worth the effort. I always have to concentrate on hearing speech in everyday situations and I am not able to just eavesdrop on conversation, particularly when there is other noise in the room.

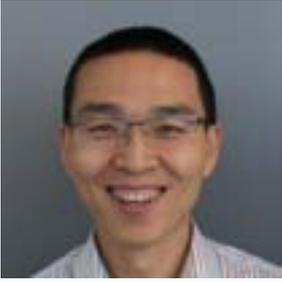
Part 2 of the study was shorter, just one and half days sitting at a computer, judging the sounds and flagging up my answers with a mouse. More comfortable than the first part, but again needing maximum concentration. As a cochlear implant user I wore two new processors set up to my maps with the experimental software. The sounds I was asked to judge were fed from the computer directly into the new processors and I was asked to judge sounds on the basis of different attributes like loudness, pitch and where they were located in space.

Overall, despite the long days, I thought it was all a very interesting experience and I felt that if it contributed something towards the future design and speech processing of hearing aids and cochlear implants it had been very well worthwhile.

I would like to thank both of the scientists who were involved in the studies and particularly the one who carried out the project I was involved in. He was very kind and sympathetic to my hearing loss, allowed plenty of time to explain in detail the various parts of the studies and proved excellent company during the time we spent together. Dr. Seeber and others at the MRC Institute of Hearing Research are carrying out such a lot of research into hearing problems of both adults and quite young children which I was unaware of. They are very dedicated and I'm sure will make life so much easier for the hearing impaired in the future.

And finally, when the results of the study are incorporated in the new devices I will ask to be the first to try one of them and tell you how well they perform when we meet down at the pub on a Friday evening.”

Hellos and Goodbyes!



Hello! My name is **Guoping Li**. Yes, it may be difficult to pronounce my name, you can call me Ping! I recently joined the SOECIC team in November 2010. I completed my PhD in ISVR at the University of Southampton in 2008, and then I did three

years postdoctoral research on noise reduction for cochlear implants. I am really excited to be working here as an audiologist and looking forward to getting to know you all soon.

Hello! My name is **Anne Beaton**. I am a Clinical Psychologist and have been working in Psychology with adults and children for the last ten years. My specialist area is Paediatric Neuropsychology and working with families around issues to do with adjustment to a medical condition. As well as working at SOECIC, I work with children and their families at Southampton General Hospital. I look forward to meeting you.



Hi. I'm **Steve Bell** and I'm an audiological scientist who has recently joined SOECIC. I haven't moved very far as I have been a lecturer on the Audiology courses over in ISVR for 8 years. I decided that I wanted to do more **clinical work**, so I've changed my role to be 2 days a week at SOECIC and the rest of the time I'll be over in the **Hearing and**

Balance Centre. I'm excited to be over at SOECIC learning lots of new things and I look forward to getting to know you all.



Hello! I am **Srikanth Chundu**. I am an Audiologist and joined the team in January 2011. I have completed my Doctor of Audiology (Au.D) and have been working in the NHS prior to joining here. I am very excited to work with cochlear implants and at the University. I am really looking forward to meeting you all soon.



Hello I'm **Anna Duncan** and I've recently joined the SOECIC team as a Speech and Language Therapist. I have previously worked in Bristol on the West of England Cochlear Implant Programme, and at Elmfield School for the Deaf. I am very pleased to be working here and I look forward to meeting many of you soon.



Fond farewell from **Fiona Jones**! The time has come for me to say goodbye to SOECIC. I have spent an amazing four years working here and have been privileged both to work with and to meet some truly inspirational people - both patients and colleagues. I shall miss so very many of you and

hope to catch up every now and then at a SOECIC social event. I am moving on to work at the Spire Southampton Hospital as Cardiac Surgery Administration Coordinator. I am looking forward to the challenges ahead and I am quite sure that my new employers will keep me busy. It is my hope "to make a difference" to the service. Farewell for now and fond wishes.



Goodbye to **Debbie Brooks**. Debbie, one of our clinic secretaries, has left to start her new job at the Southampton Eye unit as the private patient co-ordinator. She will be missed very much by the team.

Do you have good news stories or events for our next Newsletter?

Please contact Dorothy, Rebecca or Nicola at:
soecic@isvr.soton.ac.uk

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SOECIC Governance Board

SOECIC has a newly formed governance board. Eva Newbury is the adult patient representative and you will be hearing from her in our next newsletter. Christian Chilcott is the parent representative who has written to you:

“ Dear Parent/Grandparent or carer,

I am currently a member of the SOECIC Governance board as a parent representative. I have a 7 year old daughter, Millie, who has been cared for by SOECIC since she was less than a year old. She now has two cochlear implants in place and is enjoying life to the full at mainstream school. We have always received excellent care from SOECIC and when the chance to play a small part in the life of the centre came up I jumped at the chance.

My understanding of the Governance board is that it is able to provide a somewhat independent view of the governance of SOECIC. The aim, I guess, is to be a "critical friend" to SOECIC so that as an organisation it goes from strength to strength. There is a lot of regulation and statutory obligation that is applied to an organisation like SOECIC as one would expect and sometimes it is useful to have an outsiders view on how one continues to meet these obligations.

It would be lovely to hear from parents, carers or other family members of children with cochlear implants about their experiences of care from SOECIC, good or bad. This is one way to feed back information, praise or indeed concerns to SOECIC. This sort of feedback is invaluable in allowing SOECIC to move onwards and upwards in providing vital services to our deaf children. Filtering those views through a parent representative could identify trends or common themes that can then be shared with SOECIC.

I am also a local GP and therefore have some understanding about the inner workings of the NHS. I carry out no clinical or professional work for SOECIC and am on the board purely as a parent of a deaf child.

Please do contact me on 07966225327 or via email (which I expect is best) at christian.chilcott@nhs.net

Look forward to hearing from you all!

Christian Chilcott ”



Nina Wheeler would like to thank everyone who has supported her with her fundraising so far to pay for her to compete at badminton in the Deaf Olympics. The trip to Korea has been delayed due to the radiation in Japan and has now been postponed until 25th October to 6th November. We look forward to hearing about her experiences on her return. Good luck Nina!



Jo gets on her bike for SOECIC



One of our adult cochlear implant users has had a fantastic idea to celebrate the 21st birthday of the South of England Cochlear Implant Centre, and to raise much needed funds for our adult patients. Joanne Deacon is going to undertake a sponsored

cycle ride from the Implant Centre in Southampton all the way to her home in Egham, Surrey – a distance of 60 miles. And Jo challenges YOU to do the same!

Jo will be setting up a webpage to allow you to sponsor her, and we will post details on our SOECIC website (www.soecic.org) as soon as this is up and running. You can wave Jo off (or to join her on the route), she'll be setting off from the Implant Centre on Saturday 17th September at 10.30 am. If you'd like to organise your own sponsored cycle event, closer to where you live, let us know!

Contact Nicola Cole (n.cole@soton.ac.uk) or Nikki Stephens (nes@isvr.soton.ac.uk) at the implant centre if you're interested in taking part, or if you have another 21st birthday fundraising idea.

Reminders:

Spares and repairs hotline phone number:

Please note, if you require any spares or repairs call us on our repairs hotline **02380 592 666**.

Spares and repairs returns postage:

When sending equipment back to us please ensure that the correct postage is paid. If the postage is incorrect we have to pay for any postage shortfall plus an additional fine. If you are sending back a processor please send it special delivery with the maximum insurance (£2,500).

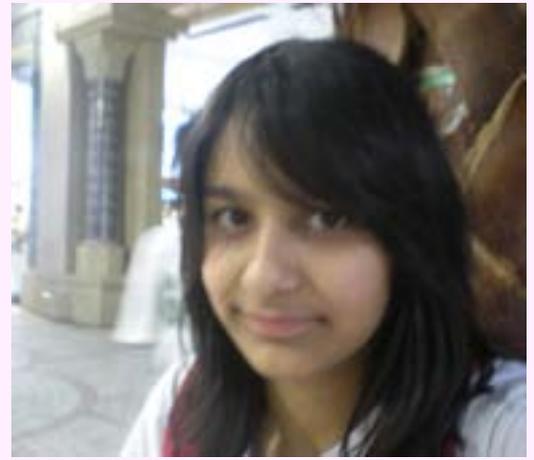
Cochlear implants and Ear Infections:

If you think you have an ear infection please see your GP as soon as possible as you may require a course of antibiotics. SOECIC can provide you with a letter written by our surgeons to give to your GP if required. Please contact us if you would like a copy of the letter.

Fatima wrote this piece for her school and would like to share her story with you:

“My life story so far

I was born on the 19th December 1999 to a family of three. I was the second child. My parents gave birth to my elder sister, Mehr, a year before I was born. **But my family didn't realise I was living in a world of silence. I was deaf.** I distinctly remember my grandmother, Nani, telling me it was her who discovered my deafness. After taking many tests, Nani was right about my deafness! The news gave great sadness to my family. Luckily at the age of seven months, a doctor finally agreed to give me hearing-aids (my parents looked for hearing-aids for many months but all the doctors said I would **never ever hear**) **I was named after the Prophet Muhammad's (peace be upon him) daughter, Fatima.** I lived Pakistan until the age of three. Then my family and I moved to London.



In 2005 my baby brother was born – named Haseeb. Our family of five was completed! I went Kingsbury Green Collage nursery and had many deaf friends but stayed there until the age of five. I left Kingsbury Green and then went Kennet Valley Primary and Infants school and stayed there. I made many great friends but sadly had to leave in year three because my family was moving house. From year four I went to Shinfield but stayed there for only a month because everyone thought I was weird and no-one understood my deafness. So then on I went to Emmbrook Junior School and met many caring, understandable friends. I also met a girl called Sophie and she had exactly the same problem as me. At the age of eight my parents and I decided for me to have a cochlear implant. Of course I was going to have a big painful operation but it was worth it. **After I had my implant my life changed. I heard sounds I haven't heard for eight years such as birds, music, sizzling... etc. My family sounded very robotic but I soon adapted to the sound. But as I went up in the school, I changed.** In year five, I befriended a lovely girl called Chloe.

I remember my tenth birthday very well! It was a VERY cold and it there was a big snowfall and many couldn't make but luckily my bests friends manage to make it. My cake was very big! But my birthday wasn't at all what I expected! The snowfall soon turned into a heavy blizzard. Our car got stuck in the snow and we couldn't make it home. We had to walk from the Reading Town to my friend's house which was a least thirty minute walk! Then I, Mehr and Haseeb slept over at my friend's house (unexpectedly) and my parent slept at their friend's house. The next morning my Dad's friend drove us home. What a birthday I had!

When I was in year six I met some girls called Mia, Emma, Kelly and Faye. They are all great friends to me! My teacher was always there to lend a helping hand on whatever the problem was.

The hobbies I normally did were horse-riding, singing and dancing with Mehr, playing games with Haseeb, and writing stories and reading books. I loved hanging out with my friends.

And that's my life story so far..."

Zoe's proud mother wrote to tell us of Zoe's recent achievements:



Zoe started at South Downs College in September 2010 to study Hairdressing in which she gained a distinction in level 1. She was rewarded for this on Friday 13th May 2011 when she received a certificate for 'the most promising Student in Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy'. She is now studying for level 2.



CP810 upgrades



The CP810 processor is available for patients with Freedom and CI24 cochlear implants. We have started upgrading patients and in order to ensure fairness to all our patients and to comply with our protocols, the upgrades will be done in a strict and logical order based on date of implantation. As a guide, upgrades will usually be carried out every 5 years at the annual review of the implant surgery. Information regarding the upgrades will be sent to patients and families to whom this applies in due course. The CP810 processor is presently not compatible with the CI22 cochlear implant – we will contact these patients as soon as this changes.