Courses, Presentations and Publications
George Newsome, MD; Susan Kooper, AuD; MD; Howard Hoffman, MD; Christopher Lorrain, MD; Simon Parisier, MD; Temporal Bone Surgery Techniques. The New York Eye and Ear Infirmary. November 30 – December 2, 2006.
Ronald A. Hoffman, MD; Simon C. Parisier, MD. Combined Otology Spray Meeting, CCSO, San Diego, April 26-30.


Implant Recipient continues to flourish Dr. Parisier and his wife Elaine received a holiday greeting card from a graduate student at Queens Lutheran School, who was also diagnosed with whom in 2005. We look forward to receiving updates on how their teams can recognize promising opportunities and harness the power of new tools and techniques to deliver successful solutions to hearing disorders in children. For further information, visit www.cochlear.com.

CHI_Sponsors Sold-Out Educators Conference The December 12 Educators Conference. Social and Emotional Aspects of Hearing Loss, sponsored by CHI and The Susan Klein Family Center for Educational Outreach, was another sold-out event. More than 100 educators from the tri-state area, as well as Florida, Maine, Missouri, North Carolina, and New York, attended the conference, which featured presentations by David Luterman, DD and Debbie Lang, PhD, as well as Don Jones, M.D., and staff members of The Beth Israel/New York Eye and Ear Cochlear Implant Center, Susan Chaffes, MD; Michael Siders, RN; Robert Kopper, MD; Meredithe Berger, MD; and Elizabeth Yung, MD, COC-SUH. Michele Appreciado, Speech Supervisor at the Shriner's Auditory/Oval School in Brooklyn, told us her program was implemented with new strategies to support families who work with their clients in the major, and is expected to drive the local and national cochlear implant communities.

Let Them Hear Foundation Expands Insurance Advocacy Program Let Them Hear Foundation. For far further information, please call Dr. Parisier for "non-stop miracles" since his cochlear implantation. In 2004, he celebrated his 30th birthday and his wife Elaine received a holiday greeting card from a graduate student at Queens Lutheran School. In 2005, they opened their cochlear implant center at the Beth Israel Medical Center and expanded nationwide. Due to the Foundation’s efforts, several insurers have changed their policies from excluding bilateral cochlear implants. Every individual who receives an insurance policy coverage for bilateral cochlear implants is now insured. The Foundation continued to advocate for expanded coverage by the American Academy of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery. A December 12 letter to the New York Times published an open letter to the New York Times. The letter was written in response to a story that appeared December 2, entitled “Hearing: Making a Difference.”

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Guest of Honor Dr. Simon Parisier Kicks Off Cochlear Implant Conference Simon C. Parisier, MD will be honored as guest of honor and keynote speaker at the 11th International Conference on Cochlear Implants in Children hosted by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Charlotte, North Carolina. April 11 to 14. Dr. Parisier will begin the symposium with a perspective on the history and future of cochlear implants. In the past year, the symposium has been expanded to present a forum for otolaryngology surgeons and other professionals who work with them. It will also feature an educational program and corporate gift donors with viable results of their philanthropy. The successful outcome of corporate gift donors will provide inspiration for others who hear.

The benefit was held in recognition of the Beth Israel/New York Eye and Ear Cochlear Implant Center, which is expanding its mission to the new location at the Ear Institute of The New York Eye and Ear Infirmary. CHI will also be launching a new electronic newsletter. This will be supported by updates on advanced technologies, new services, staff activities, programs and events. To join our distribution list, send your name and e-mail address to: cochlear@nyee.org.


CHI Events Calendar
For further information, please call Dr. Parisier at 212-844-6350.

February 1 & 2
Educational Workshops for Professionals: Controversial Issues in Pediatric Audiology
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Thursday – Audiology Day
REGISTRATION FEE $50 per day
Parents Workshop:
REGISTRATION FEE $45 per parent
Ear Hub:
REGISTRATION FEE $45 per parent

The 2007 schedule will soon be posted on our website.

March 10
Annual Family Fun Day

To receive our monthly newsletter, please sign up on the CHI website.

To the Editor:
I understand deaf parents wanting a deaf child who can share their culture. But they should understand that deaf culture is shrinking. Hearing aids and cochlear implants provide deaf children with the opportunity to learn to speak and have access to educational, social and employment opportunities. The deaf parents who are holding hearing aids and cochlear implants from their deaf children are severely restricting their children’s life choices.

Dear Friends,
I join with Dr. Parisier, Hoffman and Madell, the Cochlear Implant Center Staff, the Board of Directors of The Children’s Hearing Institute, and CHI Events Director Ariela Altschul in wishing you a healthy and happy new year!

We are pleased to announce that your donations to The Children’s Hearing Institute Friends Circle are enabling us to expand Echoes this year from four issues to six. This expansion provides a broader opportunity to convey empowering information for families facing the challenges of hearing loss, and the professionals who work with them. It also enables us to inspire our individual and corporate donors with our new electronic newsletter. This will be supported by updates on advanced technologies, new services, staff activities, programs and events. To join our distribution list, send your name and e-mail address to: cochlear@nyee.org.

As we enter the New Year, let us remember that this year marks the 10th anniversary of The Beth Israel/New York Eye and Ear Cochlear Implant Center, which is expanding its mission to the new location at the Ear Institute of The New York Eye and Ear Infirmary. CHI will also be launching a new electronic newsletter. This will be supported by updates on advanced technologies, new services, staff activities, programs and events. To join our distribution list, send your name and e-mail address to: cochlear@nyee.org.

Carole Barnett is at left (yellow jacket). Doreen Parker is in front of the (white jacket). At the far left is Dr. Parisier’s daughter, Nicole. Dr. Parisier and his wife Elaine received an holiday greeting card from a graduate student at Queens Lutheran School, who was also diagnosed with hearing loss in 2005. Photo taken at a Family Function for children & Adults with Cochlear Implants, 2006.

The Children’s Hearing Institute 300 East 14th Street New York, NY 10003

FEBRUARY, 2007

New York Times Publishes Letter from Dr. Jane Madell
On December 12, the following letter from Jane Madell, PhD, COC-SUH, CAS-AFB, Co-Director of The Beth Israel/New York Eye & Ear Infirmary Cochlear Implant Center, was published in the New York Times. The letter was written in response to a story that appeared December 2, entitled “Hearing: Making a Difference.”

The letter highlighted a deaf and deaf couple from Maryland who both attended Gallaudet University and set out to have a deaf child by intentionally selecting a deaf sperm donor to fertilize an egg donated by a deaf woman from New York City to be implanted into the Maryland couple’s uterus. After the deaf couple conceived a child, the parents were denied insurance coverage because the child was deaf and born with a hearing loss. The state of Maryland was found to be unconstitutional under the Americans with Disabilities Act for denying insurance coverage because the child was deaf. The parents were patriated to have the child’s hearing tested and receive treatment. The parents were quoted as saying, “This is an act of discrimination.”

The letter began, “We stand behind our decision to have a deaf child and look forward to this child being a role model for others. As we are a deaf couple, we acknowledge that deafness is a part of our family dynamics.”

The letter ended with the statement, “We believe it is our right and responsibility to raise a child who can thrive in a world with or without hearing loss.”

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The following essay was brought to our attention by the CHI Foundation’s own Dr. Abigail Brimhall, who has served as cochlear implant recipient, research participant, and a contributor to the online journal "Echoes," both in Los Angeles, seriously about us to share with you some of her thoughts.

Dr. Brimhall was diagnosed with profound hearing loss in the fourth grade at age 9. E. Bronkiss, MD, of the Ear House in Beverly Hills, implanted her with a CI on September 25, 2006. She tells us, “I love my CI, it just feels right.” Dr. Brimhall visited us in the summer of 2006 and showered us with her insights and help and helped us understand something.

"Hey dear friends! An update: How’s it going?

Basildon, I’m used to being in an aquarium, so I’m hearing a muffler sound--so ah, I’m at sea. I’m painting with the colors of the aquarium, the fish that are in it, and I’m seeing the colors of the sky.

The Children’s hearing is proud to partner with The Children’s Hearing Institute an organization that is providing multiple editions of the “Ag Bell Update.” The electronic newsletter is e-mailed every other Thursday to CHI subscribers. If you would like to join this service, please contact mail@childrenshearing.org.

New York Historical Society Exhibition Fully Accessible

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The following essay was brought to our attention by a cochlear implant recipient who has undertaken a fascinating study of sound in Los Angeles, graciously allowing us to share her story.

Cochlear implantation, like many medical technologies, is based on the faith that more is better. Cochlear implantation is the surgical implantation of an electronic device in the cochlea. The device is surgically placed in the cochlea, the organ of hearing. The cochlea is a small, snail-like structure located in the middle ear. The cochlea contains the receptor cells that are responsible for hearing. The device is designed to stimulate the receptor cells in the cochlea, allowing the patient to hear sound.

The device consists of a microphone that is worn outside the ear, a speech processor that is worn on the head, and an implantable electrode array that is surgically placed inside the cochlea. The microphone captures sound and sends the signal to the speech processor, which converts the signal into electrical impulses. The electrical impulses are then sent through the implantable electrode array, which stimulates the receptor cells in the cochlea.

The cochlear implant is a complex and expensive device. It is not a one-size-fits-all solution. It is important to note that not everyone who receives a cochlear implant will have the same experience. Some people may have better results than others. It is also important to note that cochlear implantation is not a cure for hearing loss. It is a medical device that is designed to help people with hearing loss hear better.

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The following essay was brought to our attention by Gail Copley, a member of the “Sound & Fury” cochlear implant recipient. Gail is an artist, a researcher, and a performer in Los Angeles, generally about as lost to us as the corner of the universe. Gail was diagnosed with profound hearing loss at the age of two.

Dr. E. Blackburn, Jr. of the House Ear Institute in Los Angeles, graciously allowed us to share a portion of her essay, which we have reprinted here as part of our on-going series, “Cochlear Implant Newsletter.”

Gail has been fitted with a cochlear implant, a device that converts sound vibrations into electrical signals that are sent to the brain. She describes her experience with the device in the following essay.

“I am a: deaf person, mother of a child with hearing loss, and advocate of listening devices at Manhattan’s culture institu-
tions. I am a New Yorker, and The New York Society, the city’s leading deaf advocacy group. It is my purpose to be as full-accessible to people with hearing loss. All of the videos have captioning and are hearing accessible, even via phone into my ostium via the “earwand,” which has been available in England and now here in New York. There is a captioning service available by telephone, and the telephone number is 1-800-822-2787.

I am all at the bottom of the aquarium. A deep, dull noise ripples in the water against my ears, but not enough to talk it out. I miss my eyes, I miss my eyes, and my ears may sleep deep. I dream of the oversized aquarium and my deafness. I dream of the new rooms of The Museum of Modern Art (see moma.moma.org) with new soundscapes to fit the Summer 2012 issue of Echoes posted on our website.

Left to Right: Josie Arnold, Heather Barring, Hadley Arnold, Liese Neelin.

The background noise from the spikes that were apparently the most important thing to hear, I didn’t hear a little bird, a delicate, ethereal, devoid of any bare sound. I could see that some-
ones singing was coming, and that it was an adult in my right ear, but to understand, I just read. Or I just looked out the window after, stopped listening, closed my eyes, and forgot about hearing for a while, while I tried to get a handle on Levine’s music. I just discovered Levine’s symphonies in my right ear, and just heard my daughter’s talking, because the brain still thinks that Levine’s symphonies are as good as any- one’s singing in the background. In that music, I: (LDR) Stabilitek: Atchison, Kansas.

By Thursday evening, this began to change a little. I had seen something of a pattern. I could not figure out what it was that was so important to me. I just heard my sister’s talking, because the brain still thinks that Levine’s symphonies are as good as some-
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 ago, they enclosed Jeremy’s report card. The progress of their son Jeremy, an 8th grader, updating us on the 11 to 14. Dr. Parisier will begin the symposium with a per- conference presentation. The Cochlear Implant Conference – “Elimination of Profound Deafness – Challenges Faced by Cochlear Implant Technology.” The December 12 Educators Conference – Social and Emotional Aspects of Hearing Loss, sponsored by CHI and the Susan Kraus Walden Family Center for Educational Audiology at the Children’s Hearing Institute. A second sold-out event. More than 100 attendees from the tri- state area, as well as Florida, Maine, Missouri, North Carolina, and others, attended the event. Guest presentations were given by David Luterman, JD and Debbie Lang, PhD, as well as Dr. Jane Madell and staff members of The Bell’s Island/New York Eye and Ear Cochorian Implant Center, Susan Chandra, MD, Nicole Stoll, RN, Robert Kopper, AU, and Meredith Berger, MS, and Elizabeth Ying, MA, CCO-SLC. Michelle Apoquist, Speech Supervisor at the Shriners/Adrain/O’Donoghue School in Brooklyn, told us about her new strategies to support families who work through grief and wrenches in relating to a deaf child. We were pleased the post-event evaluation forms included these positive comments:

– “Really enjoyed the second presentation from the various support services from here. Nice job!”
– “Helped to validate some things I am already doing.”
– “Great conference-came away with some very practical information.”
– “Helpful to validate my findings and approach.”
– “Great conference—came away with some very practical information.”
– “Really enjoyed the second presentation from the various support services from here. Nice job!”

Want to Receive Our E-Mail Updates? As always, we welcome your nominations for inspirational “Hearing Hero-y,” and suggestions for improvements to follow. Please contact me with your suggestions at mwillis@nyee.edu. We thank you for your commitment to our cause as we strive to provide the gift of hearing to those in need.

The Children's Hearing Institute 333 West 57th Street New York, NY 10019

Dear Friends,

I join with Drs. Parisier, Hoffman and Madell, the Cochlear Implant Center staff, the Board of Directors of The Children’s Hearing Institute, and CHI Events Director Alissa Abbas, in wishing you a healthy and happy new year! We are pleased to announce that your donations to The Children’s Hearing Institute’s Circle of Friends are enabling us to expand Echoes this year from four issues to six. This expansion provides a broader opportunity to convey empowering information for families facing the challenges of hearing loss, and the professionals who work with them. It also enables us to inspire our individual and corporate gift donors with visible results of their philanthropy: the success stories of children who are hearing-impaired as they flourish and recipients can often be troublesome. In January, the Let Them Hear Foundation’s Insurance Advocacy program

On Tuesday, February 13, the Let Them Hear Foundation hosts the 11th International Conference on Cochlear Implant Conference. The conference will be feature as guest of honor and

Cochlear Implants in Children hosted by the University of Pennsylvania and Vermont, participated. The conference fea-


Ronald G. Blevins, MD, Simon C. Parisier, MD, Combined Otology Spring Meetings CCSI, San Diego, April 29-30.


Implant Recipient continues to flourish.

Dr. Parisier and his wife Elaine received a holiday greeting card from Barbara and Jeff Michaels, updating us on the Michaels’ lives. Barbara, a high school student at Quvenzah Loretta Wilson, who was diagnosed with an unresectable tumor in her lung in 2002, has remained healthy and active.


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Dr. Parisier and his wife Elaine received a holiday greeting card from Barbara and Jeff Michaels, updating us on the Michaels’ lives. Barbara, a high school student at Quvenzah Loretta Wilson, who was diagnosed with an unresectable tumor in her lung in 2002, has remained healthy and active.


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Dr. Parisier and his wife Elaine received a holiday greeting card from Barbara and Jeff Michaels, updating us on the Michaels’ lives. Barbara, a high school student at Quvenzah Loretta Wilson, who was diagnosed with an unresectable tumor in her lung in 2002, has remained healthy and active.
CHI Sponsors Sold-Out Educators Conference

The December 12 Educators Conference: Social and Emotional Aspects of Hearing Loss, sponsored by CHI and The Susan Kahn Family Center for Educational Counseling, was another sold-out event. More than 100 educators from the tri-state area, as well as Florida, Maine, Missouri, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Vermont, were in attendance. The day-long event featured presentations by David Luterman, D.Ed and Debbie Lang, PhD., as well as Dr. Jane Madell and staff members of the Beth Israel/New York Eye and Ear Cochlear Implant Center. Susan Cheff, MD; Nicole Sadler, SPA; Robert Kopper, AU; Meredith Berger, MS; and Elizabeth Ying, MA, OTO-SUN; Michele Appelbaum, Speech Supervisor at The Shriftman/Auditory/Dual School in Brooklyn, told us was inspired with new strategies to support families while they work through their grief and transitions in relating to a deaf child. We were pleased the post-event evaluation forms included these positive comments:

- “Program was beautifully organized and fast-paced.”
- “Great conference-case away with some very practical information.”
- “Helped to validate some things I already know.”
- “Bring David Luterman back soon!”
- “Program was beautifully organized and fast-paced.”
- “Really enjoyed the second presentation from the various support services from here. Nice job!”

Dear Friends,

I join with Dr. Parisier, Hoffman and Medell, the Cochlear Implant Center staff, the Board of Directors of The Children’s Hearing Institute, and CHI Events Director Melissa Fields, in wishing you a healthy and happy new year!

We are pleased to announce that your donations to The Children’s Hearing Institute Friends Circle are enabling us to expand Echoes this year from four issues to six. This expansion provides a broader opportunity to convey empowering information for families facing the challenges of hearing loss, and the professionals who work with them. It also enables us to inspire our individual foundation and corporate gift donors with visible results of their philanthropy: the success stories of children who are hearing-impaired as they flourish in mainstream schools.

As we expand our translation of The Beth Israel/New York Eye and Ear Cochlear Implant Center, which is expanding this year at its new location at the Ear Institute of The New York Eye and Ear Infirmary, CHI will also be launching a new electronic newsletter. This will be replete with updates on advanced technologies, new services, staff activities, programs and events. To join our distribution list, send your name and e-mail address to: cbohdan@nyee.edu.

As always, we welcome your nominations for inspirational “Hearing Hear-oes,” and suggestions for improvements to “Echoes.” If you would like to share a personal story, please visit our educational website: www.childrenshearing.org. If you have questions or would like to share a personal story with us, contact: Jane R. Madell, PhD, CCC-A/SLP, Cert. AVT, Director: 212-844-8792, 212-844-8778; Melissa Willis, Supervisor Cochlear Implants: 212-844-8448, 212-614-8370; Nicole Sislian, MA, CCC-A, Speech-Language-Auditory Therapy Coordinator: 212-844-8792, 212-844-8778; Lorie Singer, MBA, Supervisor Social Work: 212-844-8792, 212-844-8778; Carol L. Bohdan, PhD, CCC-A, Chair, Surgeons: 212-844-8778; George Alexiades, MD; Joseph Arigo, MD; Ronald Hoffman, MD; and/or our award-winning website “Hearing Hear-oes,” and suggestions for improvements to “Echoes.”

To the Editor:

I understand deaf parents wanting a deaf child who can share their culture. But they should understand that deaf culture is shrinking. Hearing aids and cochlear implants provide deaf children with the opportunity to learn to speak and to have access to educational, social and employment opportunities. The deaf parents who are withholding hearing aids and cochlear implants from their deaf children are severely restricting their children’s life choices.