

## **The Children's Hearing Institute grants \$250,000 to The New York Eye and Ear Infirmary for Cochlear Implant Research Study in Borderline Patients**

Cochlear implantation is accepted as an effective therapeutic intervention for adults and children with bilateral, severe to profound sensorineural hearing loss, who do not derive adequate benefit from hearing aids. Although there is some variability in outcomes, most children and adults enjoy a remarkable return of useful hearing. There is a large group of patients who have a severe to profound sensorineural hearing loss in one ear but not enough hearing loss in their better ear to qualify for a cochlear implant. Despite using a hearing aid in their better ear, they struggle mightily to hear.

The Children's Hearing Institute is funding groundbreaking research to evaluate the benefits of cochlear implantation in adults who currently do not meet insurance criteria for surgery because they have too much hearing in their better ear. Once a patient is implanted in their deaf ear with an FDA approved cochlear implant he/she will be evaluated for the benefit provided by the implant alone and for bimodal benefit (using the cochlear implant in the bad ear and a hearing aid in the better, non-implanted ear). If our study proves the patient is benefiting from the cochlear implant, adults and children may no longer need to be profoundly deaf to qualify for a cochlear implant.