

Echoes



THE CHILDREN'S HEARING INSTITUTE
www.childrenshearing.org

WINTER 2006

Courageous Teen Receives Second Cochlear Implant Following Harrowing Ordeal

We proudly present this essay from *Michele Petrow*, mother of cochlear implant recipient *Jaclyn Petrow*. A 15-year old high school sophomore, *Jaclyn* exemplifies the many courageous "Hearing Heroes" who inspire the work of The Children's Hearing Institute:

"This year has been the most difficult, yet rewarding time in our lives. When you hear that your child has cancer, there are no words that can come close to the sheer terror that runs through your body. But, along with the terror came an unbelievable faith and trust in God. Our gratitude to our family and friends is incredible. We are blessed. In 2002, *Jaclyn* was diagnosed with acute myelogenous leukemia. She received her first round of chemo, achieved remission, and went home, only to return a month later for a second round. In December a severe infection attacked *Jaclyn's* brain. The doctors gave her seven to ten days to live. We had every single person we know praying for *Jaclyn*. She did not die, but continued to slowly improve. In January 2003, *Jaclyn* went into heart failure and was again not expected to survive. She surprised everyone and pulled through again. During that time, *Jaclyn* had a lung infection and part of her left lung was removed. In March she entered intensive rehab, but had what appeared to be a massive stroke. She miraculously survived, was transferred back to rehab and started intensive therapies. She came home in April, but she could not walk, had lost her hearing, and most of her vision. But *Jaclyn* was determined to get her life back. She started taking steps in September and was able to walk into her third round of chemo. In May, *Jaclyn* received her first cochlear implant from *Dr. Simon Parisier* and graduated with her 8th grade class in June achieving straight A's! In December 2005, *Jaclyn* received her second cochlear implant from *Dr. Parisier*. We know God has wonderful plans for *Jaclyn*. Don't let a day go by that you don't pray for our miracle."



Jaclyn at left with siblings Nicholas and Lisa.

Joel & Yvette Mallah Family Foundation Makes \$350,000 Gift to Support New Ear Institute

The Joel & Yvette Family Foundation recently made a visionary gift of \$350,000 to The Children's Hearing Institute to support the new Cochlear Implant Center and Ear Institute planned by The New York Eye & Ear Infirmary. "My wife *Yvette* and I are pleased to name *The Joel & Yvette Mallah Waiting Room* in honor of *Dr. Simon C. Parisier* and *Dr. Ronald A. Hoffman*, and all their wonderful work," *Mr. Mallah* said.

Hearing loss is becoming a public health issue of epidemic proportions. Opening in 2006, the Ear Institute will be a national model, incorporating a Cochlear Implant Center, Hearing & Learning Center, Hearing Aid Center, and Vestibular Rehabilitation Center. Consistently cited as one of America's "Best Hospitals," the Infirmary's Department of Otolaryngology was founded in 1820, and is the oldest such program in the western hemisphere. The department is a center of excellence, with six affiliated hospitals in its residency program and a world-class facility for the hands-on-training of surgeons from around the world in performing delicate microsurgical procedures, including repair of perforated eardrums and implantation of cochlear devices. Initiatives of the Ear Institute will have potentially dramatic outcomes for children and adults suffering from auditory disorders. We are seeking philanthropic investment to help support clinical research studies, professional staff, advanced technologies, and comprehensive support services for patients and their families. If you are interested in helping us, please contact: *Carol Bohdan*, Executive Director, The Children's Hearing Institute, 212-614-8261.



The Children's Hearing Institute To Sponsor Annual Reunion for Children and Adults with Cochlear Implants

On Sunday April 23, The Children's Hearing Institute is sponsoring our annual special event: *A Family Reunion for Children and Adults With Cochlear Implants*. "At last year's gathering, more than 200 cochlear recipients and their families had a wonderful opportunity to network and share experiences and success stories," says *Jane R. Madell, PhD, CCC-A/SLP, Cert. AVP*. If you wish to learn more about this upcoming event at Chelsea Piers, please call us: 212-614-8380

The New York Eye & Ear Infirmary Completes Implantable Hearing Aid Surgery

Joseph Arigo, MD, and George Alexiades, MD, otologists at The New York Eye and Ear Infirmary, have successfully completed the tri-state area's first fully implantable hearing aid surgery. "The new, implantable hearing aid bypasses the ear canal and eardrum to send sound directly to the middle ear bones," says *Dr. Arigo*, principal investigator for a clinical trial to determine the effectiveness of the device. The implantable hearing aid has no visible hardware, so users can shower, swim or play sports, activities that previously were incompatible with wearing hearing aids. The clinical trial seeks to determine if the implantable hearing aid improves sound quality and reduces feedback, ear canal discomfort, infections and blockages associated with conventional hearing aids. Adults with moderate to severe nerve-induced hearing loss are eligible to participate in this trial. For information, e-mail Dr. Arigo: jarigo@nyee.edu or call (212) 979-4200.

CHI Founder Dr. Simon Parisier Honored by Alma Mater



As a distinguished alumnus of The Boston University School of Medicine, *Simon C. Parisier, MD*, Founder of The Children's Hearing Institute, was recently appointed to the School's Board of Visitors. The Board serves as an advisory group to *Karen H. Antman, MD*, Provost of the Boston University Medical Campus and Dean of the School of Medicine. The School of Medicine, founded in 1848, is a leading academic and research institution, with an enrollment of nearly 1000

students and more than 1,000 full-time faculty. Nationally renowned for its programs in heart disease, hypertension, stroke, pulmonary disease, arthritis, Alzheimer's disease, autism, alcoholism and drug addiction, among others, in the past year it ranked 13th among U.S. medical schools in total dollars of National Institutes of Health funding.

CHI Events Calendar

For information on these events, call The Children's Hearing Institute: 212-614-8380 or visit: www.childrenshearing.org. All Parents Workshops and Educators Conferences take place at Beth Israel's Phillips Ambulatory Care Center, 10 Union Square East, 14-15th Streets.

- March 7 Parents Workshop, *Transitioning to the Mainstream*
- March 24 **CALL TO ACTION: Early Intervention for Infants and Children with Hearing Loss**, A Continuing Education Program for Neonatologists, Pediatricians, Pediatric Practitioners, Otolaryngology Residents and Fellows. Roosevelt Hospital Conference Center.
- April 4 Parents Workshop, *Cochlear Implants: Newest Technology; Ask The Doctors*
- April 23 *A Family Reunion for Children and Adults with Cochlear Implants. Chelsea Piers*
- May 2 Parents Workshop, *Literacy: Ways to Encourage the Love of Reading*
- June 6 Parents Workshop, *Social Skills: Problems and Interventions*

New Book Offers Practical Advice for Parents of Children With Hearing Loss

On March 1, Penguin Books is releasing "Your Child's Hearing Loss, What Parents Need to Know." From *Debby Waldman*, a mother whose daughter has hearing loss, and *Jackson Roush, PhD*, an audiologist with more than twenty-five years of experience with children who are deaf and hard-of-hearing, this book offers detailed information parents need, covering everything from day-to-day practical solutions to technical information and emotional support, including: Causes of hearing loss; testing and assessment; technical advances in hearing aids, FM systems, and cochlear implants; current research and information from audiologists, otolaryngologists, geneticists, and other specialists; the role of educators, physicians, speech-language pathologists, and specialists in early intervention; advocating for your child's welfare in social and public environments; practical solutions for everyday problems. Order the book online at: www.penguin.com.

April 26 11th Annual International Noise Awareness Day

The January/February 2006 issue of AARP Magazine features the story: "The Sounds and The Fury, The Grass Roots Movement to Save Our Eardrums." The article cites growing complaints against car alarms, louder tools, boom cars, motorcycles, and busier airports that are creating a more intense environment of sounds than ever before. These assaults can lead to hearing loss, heighten stress and blood pressure, and cause depression and lack of sleep. *International Noise Awareness Day* is intended to raise awareness of this growing phenomenon that experts predict will affect a *shocking 78 million Americans* with hearing loss by the year 2030. For more information on this public health problem, what you can do to protect your ears, and how to advocate for a quieter environment, visit these websites: League for the Hard of Hearing Noise Center (www.lhh.org/noise), Noise Free America (www.noisefree.org), Noise Pollution Clearinghouse (www.nonoise.org), and Right to Quiet Society (www.quiet.org).

The Children's Hearing Institute
Thanks Our Friends Circle Members

Thank You!

In 2004, The Children's Hearing Institute established the **CHI Friends Circle**, comprised of supporters who make donations ranging from \$1 to \$1,000. We are pleased the **Friends Circle** now numbers more than 100 members. We need your support! If you would like to join, please use the enclosed reply envelop, or make a donation online at: www.childrenshearing.org. We applaud these thoughtful **CHI Friends Circle** members for enabling us to fund many important hearing-related research and educational activities like those described in this issue of Echoes:

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Protect Your Child From Winter Ear Infections

Next to the common cold, ear infections are the most commonly diagnosed childhood illness. More than three out of four children have had at least one ear infection by the time they reach three years of age. Ear infections occur more commonly in boys than girls, in children whose families have a history of ear infections, and more often in the winter season when upper respiratory tract infections or colds are most frequent. *Ronald A. Hoffman, MD*, offers the following tips to help eliminate these conditions. *Dr. Hoffman* is Co-Director of The Beth Israel/New York Eye & Ear Cochlear Implant Center; Director of Otology at Beth Israel Medical Center; Medical Director, The Center for Hearing and Balance, New York Eye & Ear Infirmary; and Professor of Clinical Otolaryngology at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

Reduce exposure, if possible, to large groups of children, such as in child-care centers. Because multiple upper respiratory infections may also lead to frequent ear infections, limiting exposure to large groups of kids may result in less frequent colds early on and, therefore, fewer ear infections. Hand washing for both parents and children is one of the most important methods of decreasing person-to-person transmission of the germs that can cause colds and, therefore, ear infections.

Feed baby upright. Lying down while bottle-feeding can cause the milk to irritate the Eustachian tube, which can contribute to ear infections

Keep the nose clear. When a runny nose and cold start, do your best to keep the nose clear by using steam, saline nose drops, and suctioning.

Avoid exposing children to secondhand tobacco smoke, which can increase the frequency and severity of ear infections.

Keep children's immunizations up-to-date, because certain vaccines can help prevent ear infections.

Control allergies that can contribute to your child's runny nose and, consequently, ear infections.

If your child experiences persistent ear infections, seek a physician's advice.

Cochlear Implant Recipient Excels as Straight A Student

Jeremy Michaels turns age 13 this month. He is shown here with his sister *Jennifer* and their newly adopted dog *King*. *Jeremy's* mother



Barbara tells us his hearing loss was suspected in-utero, and officially diagnosed at nine weeks of age. He is grateful to *Dr. Simon Parisier* for the cochlear implant he received at age two and a half. *Jeremy* was mainstreamed from the beginning, blossoming into a straight A Student at the top of his class. Last quarter he made Principal's List at the Queens Lutheran School, where he is currently prepping for high school. *Jeremy* has his heart set on Stuyvesant or Bronx Science and wants to become a scientist. We know *Jeremy* will make his dreams come true!

Recent Courses, Presentations and Publications

Madell, Jane, PhD, CCC-A/SLP, Cert. AVT: "Maximizing the Performance of Children with Cochlear Implants." The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, January 2006.

Madell, Jane: "Audiologist as Magician; Evaluating and managing hearing in infants and young children." Illinois Academy of Audiology. January 2006.

Ronald A. Hoffman, MD; Jane Madell, Susan Cheffo, MS; Elizabeth Ying, MA, CCC-SLP: "Bilateral CI's, Maximizing speech perception, Educational services, auditory therapy for children with hearing loss." HearUs LI, January 2006.



Fall Educators Conference Draws Full House

"Putting the Pieces Together: The CI Child with Multiple Challenges," the December 6 Educators Conference sponsored by CHI and The Susan Klein Family Center for Educational Outreach, drew a full house at Beth Israel Medical Center. Conference organizer *Dr. Jane Madell*, welcomed 100 attendees, despite a snowstorm the night before! Presenters - including *Susan Cheffo, MS; Lois Heymann, MA, CCC-SLP; Ellen Rhoades, Ed.S, Cert. AVT, CED; and Elizabeth Ying, MA, CCC-SLP* - offered up-to-date information on testing and strategic guidelines for children with hearing loss and auditory processing challenges.

Want to Receive Our E-Mail Updates?

If you are interested in receiving updates by e-mail pertaining to our conferences for professionals, family workshops, and other events and news, please let us know. E-mail Melissa Willis: mwillis@nyee.edu.

The New York Eye & Ear Infirmary and The Children's Hearing Institute Jointly Sponsor Continuing Medical Education Program to Educate Physicians About Hearing Loss

On March 24, CHI and The New York Eye & Ear Infirmary are presenting ***CALL TO ACTION, Early Intervention for Infants and Children With Hearing Loss***. This Continuing Medical Education program led by course directors *Simon C. Parisier, MD, Ronald A. Hoffman, MD and Jane R. Madell, PhD, CCC-A/SLP, Cert. AVP*, is designed to familiarize Neonatologists, Pediatricians, Pediatric Care Practitioners, Otolaryngology Residents, and Fellows with the indications of hearing loss in infants and children and appropriate follow-up to prevent developmental delays. At the conclusion of this course, participants will have a better understanding of: (1) Methods of early identification of hearing-impaired children, including neonatal screening. (2) Methods of follow up of children with suspected hearing loss. (3) Factors that influence effective hearing and speech/language acquisition. (4) Methods of habilitation of children who are hearing-impaired.

This continuing medical education program has been planned in accordance with the Essential Areas and Policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) and has been designated for a maximum of 7.5 hours of Category 1 Credit toward the AMA Physician Recognition Award. The New York Eye & Ear Infirmary is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The Conference Program includes the following faculty and topics:

Susan Cheffo, MS, Beth Israel Medical Center: School support for the child with hearing loss.

Kenneth M. Grundfast, MD, Boston University School of Medicine: Etiology of hearing loss in newborns.

Laurie Hanin, PhD, League for the Hard of Hearing: Effects of minimal hearing loss.

Rebecca Kooper, Au.D., Beth Israel Medical Center: How technologies work.

Jane R. Madell, PhD, CCC-A/SLP, Cert. AVP, Beth Israel/New York Eye & Ear Cochlear Implant Center: Hearing failure and follow-up on newborn evaluation.

Simon C. Parisier, MD; Ronald A. Hoffman, MD, Beth Israel/New York Eye & Ear Cochlear Implant Center: Cochlear Implants: Indications & outcomes.

Richard M. Rosenfeld, MD, MPH, Long Island College Hospital: Otitis Media: Long-term effects.

Karl R. White, PhD, Utah State University: Neonatal screening.

Robert J. Ruben, MD, FACS, FAAP, Albert Einstein School of Medicine, Montefiore Medical Center: Cognitive effects of hearing loss on speech development & perception.

Elizabeth Ying, MA, Beth Israel Medical Center: Educational benefits of early intervention.

This important continuing medical education program is supported through grants provided by The Children's Hearing Institute, Cochlear Corporation, Advanced Bionics, MED EL, Widex Corporation, and Northeastern Technologies Group. For further information, contact us at 212-614-8380, or visit our website: www.childrenshearing.org.

Cochlear Implants Work Best When Placed Early

The following story was posted online December 5, 2005 by [Reuters Health](#): Deaf children who are given cochlear implants before 30 months of age are better able to combine what they hear and what they see than those who receive their implants when they are older, investigators report in the [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences](#). Individuals with normal hearing typically report hearing the syllable "ta" when they hear an audio recording of one syllable while watching a video recording of a speaker saying a different syllable, such as "pa" or "ka." This effect "demonstrates that, in most people, the central nervous system combines visual information from the face with acoustic information in creating the speech percept," senior author *Dr. Eric I. Knudsen* of the University of Maryland in College Park and his colleagues explain.

The authors used this set-up to test 36 children ages 5 to 14 years who were deaf since birth and who had used cochlear implants for at least a year, and 35 normal hearing children. They presented each combination of the two syllables pa and ka 10 times. All of the normal hearing children correctly reported the syllables presented congruently. Most reported ta when presented with the incongruent audiovisual stimulus. Among those who did not, 80 percent reported the auditory component of the stimulus. The pattern differed for the deaf children. Six responded incorrectly to congruent syllables, and were withdrawn from the study. Among the remaining deaf children, 20 percent demonstrated integration of auditory and visual information. "Thus, children can learn to combine visual information about lip movements with the highly unnatural neural activation patterns evoked by the implants in the processing of speech," Knudsen and his associates write. Responses were related to the age at which implants were received. All of those who exhibited consistent integration had received implants before 30 months of age. However, none of those receiving implants at later ages exhibited the same capability. These data "argue strongly for screening children for hearing capabilities and providing cochlear implants when necessary at the earliest possible ages," the research team advises.

**The Beth Israel/New York Eye & Ear Cochlear Implant Center
and Hearing & Learning Center**

- Beth Israel Center Coordinator: *Lorie Singer, MBA*, 212-844-8448
- New York Eye & Ear Center Coordinator: *Yvette Sarante*, 212-614-8370

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Paul Hammerschlag, MD
Darius Kohan, MD
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Educators/

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Coordinator: *Susan Cheffo, MS*
Meredith Berger, MS
Lois Heymann, MA, CCC-SLP
Rebecca Kooper, AuD
Merideth Newman

Social Work

Stacy Purro, MSW

Audiology

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Supervisor Cochlear Implants: *Nicole Sislian, MA, CCC-A*
Supervisor Hearing Aid Center: *Michele DiStefano, MS, CCC-A*
Sabrina Alterman, MS, CCC-A
Ariela Bindel, MA, CCC/A
Miriam De La Asuncion, AuD
Nancy Gilston, MA, CCC-A
Megan Kuhlmeier, MS, CCC-A
Lori Markoff, MS, CCC-A
Shelly Ozdamar, MS, CCC-A
Lisa Rosenberg, MS, CCC-A

Speech-Language-Auditory Therapy

Michele Bogaty-Blend, MA, CCC-SLP
Marianna Davila, MS, CCC-SLP
Karen Slotnick, MA, CCC-SLP
Elizabeth Ying, MA, CCC-SLP

Research

Richard Schwartz, PhD

Contact Us

If you have questions or would like to share a personal story with us, contact:

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