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.”

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

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).
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](http://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:

- Regina Ackley
- Lori Ali
- Bernice Apter
- Mr & Mrs Robert Apter
- Mr & Mrs George Archer
- Joseph Arigo, MD
- Janet Axelrod
- Gregory Bark
- Thomas Barnes
- Lauren Baum
- Alan Bercow
- Andrew Bergman
- Arlene Berman
- Alfred Bevacqua
- Laura Bjelke
- Thadeus Bohdan
- Margaret Bolanos
- John Brandt
- Mr & Mrs Jasper Brice
- Mr & Mrs Michael Brownstein
- Kristin Catalano
- Rosalind Catena
- Gilda Cavallaro
- Nina Cheney
- Louis Colelo
- Jerry Della Corte
- Mr & Mrs Jeffrey Coster
- Colleen Cournot
- The Dallaglio Family
- Rudy Dimmling
- Marie Durando
- Linda Fabrizio
- Fred Feldman
- Mr & Mrs Leonard Fink
- Emily Flamme
- Michael Fleisher

Reinhard Frazen
Mr & Don Freimark
Haron Gabyzon
Barbara Glickstein
John Goess
Mr & Mrs Daniel Gonzalez
Edith Gordon
Harry Gorstaysn
William Griffen
Carol Halebian
Frances Holzapfel
Mr & Mrs Robert Judell
Vivian Kah
Mike Kalos
Ralph Kaminsky
Sophia Karp
Linda Katz
Theodore Kaufman
Honorable Alfred Kleiman
Betty Klipstein
Mr & Mrs Alex Korenkov
Rebecca Krantz
Mr & Mrs Mark Leonhard
Mr & Mrs Jeffrey Levy
John Lopez
Erika Iorio
Ann Lozman
Joseph Marino
Mary Mazeau
Christopher McCarthy
Mr & Mrs Michael Mizrahi
Miriam Murphy
Howard Nass
Bernard Ng
Mr & Mrs Martin Novack
Thomas O’Halloran
Jean Oechsner
Margaret Oppedal
Matthew Paluszek
Patricia Paluszek
Marcia Partridge
Roberto Pena
Carolann Perez
Roland & Jeanine Plottel
Mr & Mrs Ray Reaback
Linda Redden
Julie Reichling
Dale Roberts
Marc Rockower
Sylvia Rubens
Mr & Mrs John Samuelson
Marcia Schreier
Ruth Schulson
Ina Seaman
Thomas Seaman
Dorice Shea
Sidney Sirkin
Robert Solomon
Lawrence Soohoo
Debbie Stein
Ellen Swenson
Donna Tregaskis
Teresa Valdes-Hebrank
Judy Veneroso
Scott Watson
Priscilla Bollard Wilder, MD
Joanne Weingaertner
Mr & Mrs Charles Wrubel
Mr & Mrs Jerry Yankow
Mr & Mrs John Zagaja III
Mr & Mrs Glenn Zarin
Mrs Isaac Zisselman
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


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
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- New York Eye & Ear Center Coordinator: Yvette Sarante, 212-614-8370

Surgeons
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Director: Simon C. Parisier, MD, 212-979-4542
George Alexiades, MD
Paul Hammerschlag, MD
Darius Kohan, MD
Christopher Linstrom, MD
Neil Sperling, MD

Audiology
Director: Jane R. Madell, PhD, CCC-A/SLP, Cert. AVT, 212-844-8792
Supervisor: Sandra Delapenha, MA, CCC-A
Supervisor Cochlear Implants: Nicole Sislian, MA, CCC-A
Supervisor Hearing Aid Center: Michele DiStefano, MS, CCC-A
Sandra Alterman, MS, CCC-A
Ariela Bindel, MA, CCC-A
Miriam De La Asuncion, AuD
Nancy Gilston, MA, CCC-A
Megan Kuhlme, MS, CCC-A
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Speech-Language-Auditory Therapy
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Marianna Davila, MS, CCC-SLP
Karen Slotnick, MA, CCC-SLP
Elizabeth Ying, MA, CCC-SLP

Research
Richard Schwartz, PhD

Social Work
Stacy Purro, MSW

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Visit our educational website: www.childrenshearing.org