Celebrations – Cochlear celebrates 10 years in China

Listen up – Assistive listening devices

Daily checks – Your speech processor

Winners announced – Graham Clark Scholarship winner

Join us – Cochlear Recipient Advisory Group
Earlier this year, on 20th May, Cochlear celebrated its 10th anniversary of operations in mainland China. More than 160 leading surgeons and doctors, cochlear implant recipients, and hearing health professionals attended to help Cochlear celebrate this milestone.

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The Ambassador of the Australian Embassy in China, senior executives of Cochlear and representatives from China Disabled Persons’ Federation, China Medical Association and implant medical centres delivered speeches at the event.

The first cochlear implant surgery in China was performed in 1995, and since then Cochlear’s hearing implant technology has been helping profoundly deaf people in China improve their quality of life.

"When Cochlear entered the Chinese market in 1995 we were very much responsible for pioneering not only the cochlear implant market, but also the establishment of an audiological support network. This network is critical to ensure optimum results from a cochlear implant," said Mark Salvo, President, Asia Pacific Region, Cochlear Ltd.

The Cochlear range of audio accessories available for use with their speech processors. These include FM cables, a TV/H-Fi cable, a personal audio cable, a lapel microphone and a telecoil.

PM Systems

An FM system is a mini FM (frequency modulated) radio. A microphone (worn by the talker) receives the speaker’s voice and a transmitter “broadcasts” the voice to the FM receiver, worn by the recipient. The microphone of the PM system can be placed close to the sound source (e.g., the person speaking) using a small microphone, worn on a lapel or collar. PM systems are designed to improve the signal to noise ratio (i.e., make important speech louder than background noise). If a speech signal cannot be heard over background noise, it will not be understood.

The greater the volume of the speech signal over the noisy background the better the system. People who are deafened in an industrial accident can understand a spoken message. Speech processors are often used by children in the school setting to improve their ability to hear the teacher’s voice in the presence of classroom noise. Adults may find PM systems useful in small meetings, at lectures, and on various tours. Both body worn and ear level PM systems are commercially available. PM systems are usually purchased or issued by hearing aid providers.

Cochlear has designed cables for use with a wide variety of commercial PM systems. You will need to know the manufacturer of the PM system when placing an order for the cable. If you wish to access our own PM technology, the recipient will need to have an Eigo 3G speech processor and purchase a "microlink adaptor".

Coming soon, the world’s first designs, integrated wireless PM receiver for a BTE speech processor. This state-of-the-art wireless PM receiver, available exclusively for Nucleus Freedom recipients, has been jointly developed by Cochlear and Phonak and will be available from Phonak distributors.

TV/H-Fi Cable

The TV/H-Fi cable provides direct coupling from the television set to the cochlear implant system. The microphone of the speech processor is still enabled so one can discuss with the family while watching TV or listen to radio. This will mean both the implant recipient and the family can watch TV together at the table. When travelling in a car, some recipients will place the lapel microphone on the seatbelt of their passenger or driver to increase their ability to hear speech over the background road or wind noise.

The telecoil can also pick up the electromagnetic signals emanating from a readloop that are placed around the neck. These are plugged into the headphone jack of PM and infra-red receivers and used with personal and large-area assistive listening systems. Telecoils are available for most Cochlear speech processors, both with the Eigo 3G and the Freedom speech processor being an inbuilt telecoil.

If you would like more information about these accessories, or would like to make a purchase please contact your clinic or Cochlear Customer Service on 1800 620 929 (Australia) or 0800 600 191 (New Zealand) or you can email us at customerservice@cochlear.com.au.

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Daily checks for your speech processor

Each day, you should do a check of the functioning of your or your child’s processor. Each speech processor has either inbuilt troubleshooting functionality or accessories for troubleshooting. If you are unsure ask for an update from your clinician.

SPrint and Spectra speech processors
Every body worn speech processor (Spectra & SPrint) has built in indicator lights to aid in troubleshooting the microphone input. A flashing red light is located on the top of the processor and indicates if the microphone is picking up sound (it will flash to the rhythm of your voice). There are also built in coil checks, which work by placing the headset cable against the back of the speech processor at the top. For the Spectra a “C” light illuminates when the coil is working and for the Spectra 2G an “i” symbol shows up in the lower left corner of the LCD display. For the microphone input to function the long and short headset cable needs to be working as well as the microphone. For the coil check to work, the long and short headset cable and the coil need to be functioning.

ESPirit 3G, ESPirit, & ESPirit 22 speech processor
If your partner or child has an ear level speech processor, you can check the function of the microphone by using monitor earphones. These plug into the accessory adaptor (ESPirit 3G) or come with an audio jack (ESPirit 32 and ESPirit). The sound input you hear through the monitor earphones should be clear and free of noise. If the sound is distorted or cracking you should contact your cochlear implant clinic to have the microphone checked. The sound heard via the earphones is not the sound your child or partner is hearing. You will hear pre-processed sound.

Freedom speech processor
The Freedom speech processor features in-built help (H) messages that illuminate on the LCD display if there is a problem with the functioning of the processor. If the indicator light is activated for your program, the light will flash in a steady pattern indicating that a help (H) message is present.

The help (H) messages are: H1: flat battery (batteries will need to be replaced shortly), H2: low battery (batteries will need to be changed immediately), H3: coil error (check coil position, check cable connections, swap cable), H4: audio error (sound input has stopped – check the microphone cover and if necessary contact your clinic to arrange for its repair), H5: program corrupted (reset processor or return it to your cochlear implant clinic). Cochlear cannot guarantee that they will be able to repair any water-damaged part. Avoid getting sand or dirt into any part of the system. If this happens, shake out as much as possible and if necessary contact your clinic to arrange for its repair.

By performing regular maintenance checks of the speech processor, you can have confidence that your or your child’s processor is functioning to its optimum. So remember, dry your speech processor each night and do a quick check of the processor daily!
Cochlear Competition: Would you like the chance to win a year’s worth of IMPLANT batteries?

For your chance to win, simply email us at hearalways@cochlear.com with your current address and contact details and you will go into the draw to win a year’s worth of batteries.*

We need your up-to-date information to:
- Enable product tracking if required.
- Manage the maintenance and development of Cochlear’s products and services.
- Enable product testing if required.

Without this information Cochlear may not be able to effectively support and manage its products and services. It is very important that you contact Cochlear and your clinic to advise them of changes in personal details.

So, if you or your clinic contacts Cochlear with changed details, you will be entered in a draw for 300 cells of the Varta power one IMPLANT plus batteries, which should provide you with a year of consistent battery performance and long battery life.**

For more information on how Cochlear manages privacy, please read Cochlear’s Privacy Policy at www.cochlear.com/privacy or email us at hearalways@cochlear.com for a copy.

A Sydney University student who created the cochlear implant with enabling him to attain the high marks needed for acceptance into a Medical Sciences degree, has been awarded a three-year scholarship to help pay his way through university.

Sydney University student Aaron Payne, 19, is the 2005 winner of the Graeme Clark Scholarship Award – a prestigious international scholarship that honours the Australian inventor of the multi-channel bionic ear.

Born profoundly deaf Aaron was diagnosed as deaf at six months and relied on hearing aids until at age 17 – a critical time in his secondary studies – he realised his hearing had deteriorated to the extent where hearing aids no longer enabled him to hear.

It allowed me to participate in classroom discussions in a way I never really had before,” Aaron said. “It was always difficult when I heard sounds coming from all different directions. With my implant I could finally fully follow what was going on.”

Despite his profound deafness Aaron and his family never accepted he should have different goals to children with normal hearing ability. At school Aaron was an accomplished public speaker and debater. Aaron regularly uses his public speaking skill to engage parents of deaf children and help them come to terms with their child’s difference through seminars at Sydney’s Shepherd centre – a centre aimed at helping deaf children.

The Graeme Clark Cochlear Scholarship, funded by Cochlear, is established in 2002 to assist people with cochlear implants to undertake tertiary studies.

Winner announced: Graeme Clark 2005 Scholarship

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In the first issue of the Hear Always newsletter we invited people to join the Cochlear Recipient Advisory Group. We had a fantastic response with 59 people putting their hand up to join the group.

The Cochlear Recipient Advisory Group provides you with an opportunity to share your ideas on new products that may improve your everyday experience. On an ongoing basis, we will require the input of recipients for help with the development of new products and services. We would also like to develop a group of recipients who would be willing to be contacted periodically, with an invitation to meet, or respond to an email or mail survey.

Clearly, our recipients have the best practical understanding of our products as you live and listen with your cochlear implant system each day.

If you are interested in being part of this group please contact Loretta Marchegiani on hearalways@cochlear.com or on 61 2 9428 6555.

For further information on Cochlear and its products and services visit www.cochlear.com or contact your local Cochlear office or distributor.

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