

HCAA Wayne/Holmes Counties Chapter Newsletter



Volume 6, Issue 5

Late Spring/Summer

HCAA—"The Nation's Voice for people with hearing loss"

Is it a Hearing Aid or Cochlear Implant? The Hybrid CI *An Interview with Dr. Erika Woodson*

Officers:

- State Coordinator
Debbie Schaaf
- President
Debbie Schaaf
- Vice President
Michelle Gerlach
- Newsletter Editor
Margaret Latta
- Board Members
Michelle Gerlach
Penny Hyatt
Donna Ru Lon

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--|---|
| Upcoming Meetings and News | 2 |
| Join HCAA | 2 |
| An Interview with Inese Abols | 3 |
| Nina's Story | 3 |
| The President's Message Summer Calls for Hearing Loss Protection... | 4 |

Editor's Note: Dr. Erika Woodson is a cochlear implant surgeon and Medical Director of the Hearing Implant Program at the Cleveland Clinic.

The Hybrid CI—is it a hearing aid or cochlear implant? Or more of one or the other? It is a cochlear implant. It allows the user to have their OWN acoustic hearing, plus electrical hearing for tones/frequencies that they lack. Recipients would wear their own hearing aid with the implant processor. The design of the Hybrid processor features an integrated hearing aid so it is an all-in-one.

It's for those with a ski-slope audiogram, what does this mean? It is for people that CAN hear low tones normally or near-normally, but lack high-frequency hearing, such as "s" or "sh" sounds.

The device has an ear piece (ear mold) like a hearing aid, so does it amplify, as well as electrify the hair cells? The Hybrid itself is shorter, thinner (so only

goes about half-way in the cochlea) than a traditional cochlear implant. It provides information from the high tones that the individual is missing. The hearing aid part is to make use of the recipient's residual acoustic hearing. Some user's low-frequency hearing is so good, that they do not even need a hearing aid for the low tones! In those individuals, they just wear the processor, like one with a CI.



Does the person still have to have surgery? Yes, the surgery and recovery is the same for a Hybrid as a CI. We use a special technique, called the "soft technique", to avoid any trauma to the inner ear, thus saving residual hearing.

Is this new? When did it get developed? Who developed

it? Through a collaboration between the University of Iowa and Cochlear Corporation. The surgeon that developed and patented this is Dr. Bruce Gantz, whom I have been trained under for seven years as his resident and fellow.

How long has this device been around? The first Hybrid implanted was in 1999.

How many people have the Hybrid? About 100.

Is it possible to go bilateral with the Hybrid? Technically, it is possible, but right now the Hybrid technology is still under FDA trial. Very few centers in the country offers this technology. If FDA approved, more people will have access to this technology and benefit from having two Hybrids.

Who has this device? The Hybrid is made by Cochlear Corporation. Med-EL has a similar design called the EAS (Electric Acoustic Stimulation system).

Takes batteries? Yes.

Costs? Similar to a traditional CI.



Better Hearing and Speech Month

When we think of May, we conjure up images of sunshine, green grass, and spring flowers. The last thing you think of are hearing aids, right?

Well, you should, because **May is Better Hearing and Speech Month**. This annual event raises awareness about communication disorders and promotes treatment that can improve the quality of life for those who experience problems with hearing, speaking, and understanding. There are lots of reasons why you should listen to this

message—especially if you can't hear too well!

You may be wondering why **Better Hearing and Speech Month** is so important. The reasons are fairly obvious, but this may be a good time to reiterate them. **Hearing loss is the third most prevalent, but treatable condition among seniors, behind arthritis and hypertension.**

In fact, **3 in 10 people over 60 are hearing impaired**. Additionally, 1 in 6 baby boomers (ages 51-59); 1 in 14 of those who are 29 to

40; and at least 1.4 million children, have hearing loss. All in all, an estimated 36 million people in this country have hearing problems, and millions of them suffer—literally—in silence because their condition remains undetected, untreated, or both; studies show that while 95 percent of people with hearing loss can be helped by hearing aids, only 23 percent currently use them.

The logo for Better Hearing and Speech Month is to the left of this article.

Upcoming Meetings and News



Wooster Public Library

May 14, 2011 at the Wooster Library from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. **Movie Day Title:** *Sound and Fury*. We will show the Academy Award nominated documentary film (with captions) and includes Door Prize Drawing and popcorn!

June 25, 2011 at the Wooster Library from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. **Special Event: Advances**

in Implantable Hearing Technology. Speaker: Christine Pett, of Med-EL company and **NEW Clear Captions Free Phone Service.** Speaker: Frank Endres, Clear Captions Rep. A free luncheon will be provided and sponsored by Med-EL company.

July 16, 2011 is our **6th Annual Picnic** will be held at the Creston Community Park in Murray Hall, located in Creston, OH from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bring a covered dish and dessert. Chapter will provide meats, drinks, plates, cups, etc. Includes games and Door Prize Drawing.



Our local chapter has a team that will be involved in the Dayton/Cincinnati Walk4Hearing on Saturday, May 21, 2011 at Crillon Park in Dayton, OH. The team members are: Michelle Gerlaugh, Penny Hyatt, Debbie Schaaf, and Crystal Terrell. Their team name is **Rockin2Hear**. Visit the website at www.walk4hearing.org and pledge your donations to this worthwhile cause.



HLAA 2011 Convention: There is still time to register for the HLA A Convention 2011, June 16-19 and the 2nd International Hearing Loop Convention, June 18-20. Both are held at the Hyatt Regency located just a mile from Reagan National Airport. See www.hearingloss.org/convention to register and for more information.

To join the Hearing Loss Association of America (the national organization)

Name_____

Organization_____

Address_____

City, State, Zip_____

Phone_____

Cell Phone_____

(circle: voice or text)

E-mail_____

- Membership Type (per year)
- Student \$20_____
 - Individual \$35_____
 - Couple/Family \$45_____
 - Professional \$60_____
 - Library/Non-Profit \$50_____

Make check payable to:
Hearing Loss Association of America
 Put on the memo line: Membership Dues
 Mail check and this form to:
Hearing Loss Association of America
7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1200
Bethesda, MD 20814
Or, you can pay on-line at www.hearingloss.org

Are you a member of the local HLAA-Wayne/Holmes Counties Chapter? If not, join us!

Name_____

Organization_____

Address_____

City, State, Zip_____

Phone_____

Cell Phone_____

(circle: voice or text)

E-mail_____

Donation: \$_____

(It is suggested that a minimum donation be \$10 per year)

Make check payable to:
HLAA-Wayne/Holmes Counties Chapter
 Put on the memo line: Membership Dues
 Mail check and this form to:
HLAA-Wayne/Holmes Counties Chapter
Debbie Schaaf
1817 Rathburn Road
Wooster, OH 44691
Any questions, ask Debbie Schaaf at Debbie1496@aol.com or 330-264-1496.

An Interview with Inese Abols by Margaret Latta



**Inese Abols, M.A. CCC/A
Owner/Board Certified
Audiologist
Audiphone Co. of Akron
102 Western Ave., Suite 106
Akron, OH 44313
330-434-5101
www.audiphoneakron.com**

1. What prompted you to help people with hearing loss? I already knew in high school that I wanted to be in some kind of medical field. My father was hearing impaired, due to untreated childhood ear infections. I watched him struggle all his life with a hearing loss that he never addressed and decided I wanted to be an audiologist and help those with hearing loss.

2. How many years have you been an Audiologist?

Have had your own business? I have been an Audiologist for 32 years. I have owned Audiphone Co. of Akron for 12 years. I have an undergraduate degree and master's degree in Audiology from Cleveland State University.

3. How have you been supportive of HLAA? I have been supportive of HLAA for over twenty years. While working at Audiphone Co. of Cleveland, I was a member of the Cleveland West Side Chapter of HLAA. I attended all meetings and was a guest speaker many times. About 15 years ago I attended an international HLAA Conference in Graz Austria. I paid for an audiologist from my homeland of Latvia to also attend this conference. This conference is the best I have ever attended. It brought together, from all over the world: Audiologists, hearing impaired persons, professional organizations serving the hearing impaired and even ministers that help spread the word of God to the deaf and hearing im-

paired. I helped to start the Akron Chapter of HLAA. I attended all meetings, was a guest speaker and paid for CART services for many of the meetings. My staff and I participated in the 2009 Columbus Walk for Hearing and Audiphone Co. of Akron which was one of the top fund raisers, raising over \$4000 for this worthwhile cause. I am a member and have been a guest speaker at the Wayne County Chapter of HLAA. Debbie Schaaf and I have organized two Cochlear Implant Seminars and a Coping With Hearing Loss all day seminar for the hearing impaired and BVR counselors. I look forward to taking an even more active role in HLAA after retiring.

4. What is the most difficult challenge for you in the work that you do? It is meeting the expectations of my most severely hearing impaired clients. Their ability to hear with hearing aids is sometimes challenging and I work hard to provide all of the services these clients require. This includes coun-

seling, hearing aid fitting, assistive listening devices, wireless communication devices and Cochlear Implant Referrals. I give all of my clients information on HLAA and encourage them to attend their local chapters.

5. What is the best thing that has happened for you in the work that you do? It is being able to help the hearing impaired for over 30 years, helping them to communicate better and live a more productive and meaningful life.

6. What advice would you give to someone with a hearing loss? If the hearing impaired person notes a hearing loss they should not wait years before seeking help. The longer one waits the more difficult it is to adjust to hearing aids and in addition the ability to understand speech may begin to deteriorate. Seek the advice of an Audiologist, they are the experts in the field of diagnostics and rehabilitation of hearing loss.

Nina's Story by Nina Koly



The Koly Family: From left to right: Gary, Katrina, Tabitha, Nina and Josiah.

My nickname used to be "Sister Say What?" I sure got tired of draining everyone from repeating themselves to me. I got drained trying to hear so intently. I was getting more distant from social interaction and felt distress any time I had to go to a party, seminar, or any event where I needed ears! My children were taught to speak loud and clear (which was a plus

for them.) I started to get depressed and felt really distant. I couldn't hear my husband and children talking around the dinner table, friends talking and laughing...I was asked numerous times if I had my hearing aids turned up. Yep, I'd say, all the way but I still couldn't understand people.

I bought my first hearing aid in 1971 right out of high school. I believe the LOUD rock music I listened to with headphones and the lifestyle that went with it damaged my hearing. My hearing loss has gotten progressively worse, and I felt I was stuck this way. I wore two hearing aids, what more could I do?

I prayed and searched the internet and came across the HLAA support group in Wooster. WOW, how convenient; I got excited! We

can all compare stories and encourage each other. I contacted the chapter president, Debbie Schaaf, by email (phone calls were a luxury I didn't experience much). She contacted me immediately and what a sweet person, I thought she was. She gave me so much information about hearing aid providers in our area; rehabilitation assistance; and the group meeting dates and times. If it wasn't for this answered prayer and Debbie's response to my email about the HLAA group; I wouldn't have found out the info. I needed about "cochlear implants" nor, would I have gotten the courage to go for a cochlear implant myself. I didn't know anyone that had one, Debbie had one and other talented and pleasant people at the HLAA meeting. They heard better than me!! That was it!

Within a year of learning what I did at the HLAA meeting-I have had a cochlear implant and WOW! I'm thrilled! Between that and a new hearing aid, I'm talking to people again! I feel like I'm starting a new life! If you are debating about getting a cochlear implant; don't! Just GO FOR IT!!! It has changed my life and I am looking forward to even more improvement as time passes. Say What? changed to Heard That :)

"I'm talking to people again! I feel like I'm starting a new life!"

Hearing Loss Association of America
HLAA-Wayne & Holmes Counties Chapter
1817 Rathburn Road
Wooster, OH 44691

Note: For individuals without computers, you can use the computers at your local library or ask a relative to look at any websites mentioned in this newsletter.



The President's Message...Debbie Schaaf

Summer Calls for Hearing Loss Protection...

We've waited a long time to reach the 80-degree mark and it's time to pack a picnic; head to the beach and throw out the blanket for some summertime fun!

Did you know summer can be the noisiest season during the year? And, sorry to burst your summertime fun bubble, many sounds of summer can actually be harmful to your hearing and potentially cause hearing loss. Outdoor concerts, weekend warriors trimming the trees with power tools, and firecrackers are a few of the summer fun activities that have the potential of causing noise-induced hear-

ing loss.

For example, outdoor concert noise levels have been measured in various studies and on average they typically produce in excess of 100 dBs. Just think what the levels are if you are rocking out in the front row near the speakers. For fireworks and firecrackers we are talking impulse noise that average between 140-150 dB. Ouch!

So, what is too much? According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health's "best practices" for safe duration noise exposure; a noise of 95 dB it would only be safe to listen for less than 1 hour. By increasing your awareness of noise around you and wearing hearing protection, you

can continue to enjoy summertime fun and protect your hearing.

Our local HLAA Chapter participated at the Health Fair held at the Wooster Grace Brethren Church on Saturday, April 16, 2011 from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. We displayed information and educational materials about Hearing Loss Awareness. ***CapTel and Relay Ohio*** also participated with our local chapter at the Health Fair to help promote the hearing loss awareness about CapTel telephones for people that are hard of hearing. See everything that your caller says! Be sure of what people say over the phone with new CapTel 800. The remarkable phone works like any traditional phone, but it also shows your written cap-

tions during your telephone conversations.

I want to thank all of our HLAA chapter members for this past year for supporting and giving their time to help others; and making a difference in others' lives. We appreciate all the support for our support group to make a great place for everyone to meet others about hearing loss.

Have a safe and great summer! See you at the HLAA 6th Annual Chapter Picnic on Saturday, July 16th!

God Bless you and your family.

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."—Helen Keller



© 2011 HLAA

Wayne/Holmes Area Chapter