



WELCOME

Welcome to the Autumn 2012 edition of the SCIP Newsletter. This Newsletter is the first since the February 2011 (and subsequent) Canterbury earthquakes. While clinical services have been maintained almost continuously over a rather difficult last 18 months, some aspects of the programme have needed to be put on a “back-burner”, so to speak, and the Newsletter is one of those.

The disruption caused by last year’s earthquakes and snowstorms aside, there have been other significant changes within the programme since our last Newsletter and these are described within.

You will notice that the format for the Newsletter has reverted to a slightly “older” style from a few years ago. We are currently looking at having production of the Newsletter sponsored, and until that occurs it will revert to the current form.

Aside from updates to the programme here we welcome any suggestions from recipients and families as to the sort of information you want in a Newsletter. We also welcome stories from recipients; it can be extremely useful for people to hear what others are doing and how they are progressing with their cochlear implant.

I hope you find the Newsletter useful.

Best wishes

Neil Heslop
General Manager

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Since our last Newsletter we have had a number of changes in staff; details are posted here.

Megan Chinnery

Megan joins us as an Habilitationist with the paediatric programme. She began work here on 5 March. Megan has a Bachelor of Speech-Language Therapy from the University of Canterbury. Originally from Canterbury, Megan was working in Banff, Canada prior to returning to New Zealand to take up her position here.

Once Megan has completed an induction programme she will assume responsibility for her own caseload. This will include children and families living in the Palmerston North and New Plymouth areas.

Shirley Marshall

Shirley re-joins having returned from maternity leave. She will be working part-time for us 3 days a week on a Monday, Tuesday and a Thursday. Shirley will work with adult patients at the moment until the return of Beth Kempen.

Naomi Gibson

Naomi has been with us since September of 2011. Naomi has previously worked as an Audiologist at The Hearing House and so has some experience with working with children with cochlear implants. Naomi's most recent position was as an Audiologist based on the Gold Coast in Queensland. She has also had some experience working in the UK.

Beth Kempen

Beth is currently on leave due to illness.

Helen Landrebe

Helen joins us on a part time basis 3 days per week in a "job-share" reception/administration role with Rosie Giblin. Helen used to work at The Millenium Hotel at the time of the February 22 earthquake.

**Anne Courtney**

Anne Courtney is no longer with the programme. She and her family left to live and work in Australia in June 2011.

Pauline Cosgrove-Haggerty

Anne Courtney's role has now been taken up by Pauline Cosgrove-Haggerty. Pauline worked as Administrator for the paediatric programme prior to the move from the van Asch site to the St. George's site. Pauline as the Office Administrator for the entire programme now has responsibility for all administrative functions.

Melanie Souter

Melanie Souter has started with the programme as a surgeon. Melanie trained in Christchurch and has further experience under Rob Briggs in Melbourne.



*Wellington Cochlear Implant Users and
Parents Get Together*

Do you live in the Wellington region? Do you or your child(ren) have cochlear implants? **Then we want to see you at this event.**

We are fortunate enough to have Neil Heslop and Jill Mustard from SCIP coming to Wellington. We will start the evening with a pot-luck dinner. Then at 6pm Neil and Jill will do a short presentation on some of the exciting developments with SCIP and Cochlear Implants.

We would really like to see every CI user and family in the Wellington region come along. Its a great chance to meet other CI users, encourage one another, enjoy some yummy food and hear about what's happening with the organization that provides you with such vital support.

We will wrap the evening up by 7pm for families with children.

Where: Onslow Community Church Hall, 4 Ngatoto St, Ngaio, Wellington

When: 4pm–7pm Sunday 13th May 2012

RSVP to: symgardiner@gmail.com with the number of people attending (so we arrange plates etc) by Wed 9th May.



Facebook Page

For those that don't know we have a Facebook page for patients and families. The Facebook page is a "closed" group and can be found at:

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/scip.paed/>

The Facebook page was originally set up by the paediatric programme following the February 2011 earthquake as a means of keeping people informed about the availability of services in the weeks following our re-location.

The Facebook page is now open to all recipients and families for discussion about anything to do with cochlear implants. We encourage people to use it.

We intend to increase our use of the Facebook page to communicate with patients and families. It is a relatively easy way to post documents, updates, and answer any questions.





CI512 Recall

Recipients of the CI512 cochlear implant should now all be aware of the recall notice issued by Cochlear Limited in September 2011. If you have NOT received a letter about the recall notice please contact us.

A further update from Cochlear Limited is available here:

http://www.cochlear.com/files/assets/N385895_385894_ISS2_MAR12_FEBdata_Reliability_Report_A4_d09_Cap_LR.pdf

We will try and keep people informed of any new developments in this area as soon as they are made available by Cochlear Limited.

To date we have had 3 failures of the CI512 device, all of whom are adults. We have 29 adults and 20 children with this device.

Integration of Paediatric and Adult Programmes

Following the earthquake of 22 February 2011 the paediatric programme based at van Asch Deaf Education Centre relocated to the rooms of the adult programme on the St. George's Hospital site.

With the availability of more space at the Milford Chambers site and with ongoing access issues to the Sumner area as a result of the earthquakes, the Southern Hearing Charitable Trust made the decision to make the paediatric programme relocation permanent.

At present the Habilitation staff based at St. George's Hospital remain employed by van Asch Deaf Education Centre but all other staff are now employed by the Southern Cochlear Implant Programme.



Bay Audiology Battery Recycling Scheme

Bay Audiology are a national chain of hearing aid clinics. They have recently implemented a battery recycling scheme across all their clinics.

Proceeds from this scheme are passed on to the Northern and Southern Cochlear Implant Programmes.

We are naturally encouraging people to use this service as it benefits our programme. The proceeds from this scheme will go straight back in to clinical services.

For every kilogram of cochlear implant zinc air batteries recycled, \$1 is donated to the cochlear implant programmes.

If visiting our service please ask for one of the Bay Audiology recycling boxes. Those with full boxes can also return them to the clinic here.

Please do not hesitate to ask any questions about this scheme.





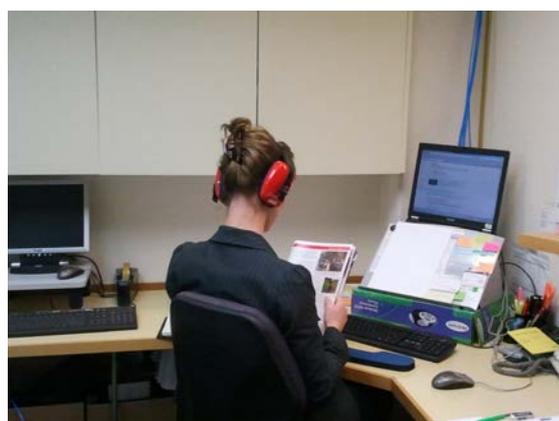
Milford Chambers – Refurbishment

Since December 2011 the Milford Chambers site has been undergoing a re-fit to accommodate our expanded needs. The area previously occupied by E. Peter Walker (Plastic Surgeon) adjacent to our rooms has now been taken over by the CI programme.

The refurbishment programme has taken longer than anticipated but there is an end in sight with a planned completion date of 9 May. Key features of the newly refurbished rooms include:

- An increase in the number of available clinical areas from 4 to 7
- The addition of 2 sound-proofed rooms for Audiometric testing, at a combined cost of \$116,000 + GST
- Implementation of a new, quicker, and more reliable IT system
- The creation of a new “observation” room for teaching purposes
- Skype facilities for teleconferencing with patients and professionals out of Christchurch

We apologize for the inconvenience to patients and families caused by the building work that is nearing completion. We do believe the changes will result in significant benefits to patients and families using our service.





Air New Zealand – Travel following Cochlear Implant surgery

People may be aware that in November 2011, Air New Zealand refused to board patients travelling home from Christchurch who had undergone cochlear implant surgery.

In most cases children and adults undergoing surgery have this done on a Thursday at St. George's Hospital and travel home again on the Saturday or Sunday following. This has been the case for the 9 years the programme has been in operation however in November 2011, quite without warning, Air New Zealand mandated a 14-day stand-down period for anyone having undergone inner ear surgery.

In reality there is no medical reason why patients cannot fly home within 48 hours of surgery (in all but the rarest of cases, which would be managed by us) and following discussion with Air New Zealand the situation has been resolved. Adults and children returning home from surgery will now be provided a letter from the Air New Zealand Medical Officer giving them clearance to travel. Patients will be able to travel within 48 hours of leaving hospital.



AIR NEW ZEALAND



Rhys Marsland—Buller Marathon

Rhys Marsland, aged 10, recently took part in the Buller Mini 2km Marathon for Kids. Although no official placings were recorded we are reliably informed by his Dad that Rhys was one of the first 10 to finish. Well done Rhys!



Emma Paton - Australian Deaf Games

Otago table tennis player Emma Paton recently competed at the Australian Deaf Games as a member of the Deaf Sports Federation of New Zealand team. The games are held in Australia every four years and Geelong was the host city for 2012. Over 700 athletes from Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Samoa took part in a variety of sports during the week long games.

Emma won gold medals in the Womens Singles and Mixed Doubles. The singles finals match provided some tense moments with Emma down two games and trailing in the third against an attacking Leslie Noonan from New South Wales. However a come back later in the game saw Emma win the third game and go on to win the next two games resulting in a 3-2 win (9-11,6-11,13-11,11-3,11-7) much to the delight of the New Zealand supporters.



Emma Paton — continued ...



Emma combined well with Michael Louey from Australia to go through the first rounds unbeaten then convincingly win the final 3-0.

High temperatures inside the Geelong Table Tennis Stadium and having to play without the aid of her two speech processors, as stated in the rules of the Deaf competition, proved challenging as was preparing for the event in the off-season with minimal game time. However these challenges were overcome and Emma was pleased with her results and has learned an enormous amount from this experience. She is looking forward to more table tennis in 2012.



Donations

The following people and organizations have kindly donated funds for the programme:

Brown Webb Richardson Limited	\$100 from "Casual Friday"
Juanita Brady	\$1200
Waimate Whitehorse Lions	\$1000
Karen Wilkie	Toy Bike
Quota International	\$100
Robyn Gleye	\$20





COCHLEAR IMPLANT PROGRAMME—STAFF

General Manager

Neil Heslop

neilheslop_scipa@xtra.co.nz

Administration Staff

Pauline Cosgrove-Haggerty

shctrust@xtra.co.nz

Helen Landrebe

scipa@xtra.co.nz

Rosie Giblin

scipa@xtra.co.nz

Audiologists - Adult

Leonard Healy

leonardhealy_scipa@xtra.co.nz

Beth Kempen

bethkempen_scipa@xtra.co.nz

Audiologists – Paediatric

Naomi Gibson

naomigibson_scipa@xtra.co.nz

Shirley Marshall

shirleymarshall_scipa@xtra.co.nz

Adult Rehabilitationist

Penny Monteath

pennymonteath_scipa@xtra.co.nz

Paediatric Habilitationists*

Jill Mustard

jmustard@vanasch.school.nz

Joanne Lake

jlake@vanasch.school.nz

Megan Chinnery

mchinnery@vanasch.school.nz

*Note: The Paediatric Habilitationists are based at St. George's Hospital.

Surgeons (Contact via Administration Staff)

Phil Bird

Daran Murray

Melanie Souter



COCHLEAR IMPLANT PROGRAMME—ADDRESS DETAILS

Mailing address:

Southern Cochlear Implant Programme
Block 1 Milford Chambers
St. George's Hospital
249 Papanui Road
Christchurch 8014

Phone

03 355 3041

FAX

03 355 3045

Freephone

0800 500 405

Email

scipa@xtra.co.nz