Welcome
Colin Driscoll MD
Chair, ACI Alliance Board of Directors
Recognizing the ACI Alliance Board of Directors

Colin Driscoll (Chair), Oliver Adunka, Nikolas Blevins, Dan Choo, John Dornhoffer, Jill Firszt, David Haynes, Meredith Holcomb, Jan Larky, Steven Rech, Amy McConkey-Robbins, Andrew Shuman, Holly Teagle, Sally Tannenbaum Katsaggelos
Board of Directors Nominations Committee
Holly Teagle
Nominations Chair
Committee Members
Colin Driscoll, John Dornhoffer, Amy McConkey Robbins
Nominations for Election to the Board of Directors
Term 2018-2020

• Camille Dunn PhD – 2018-2020 Term
• Melissa J.W. Hall AuD – 2018-2020 Term
• David Kelsall MD – 2018-2020 Term
• Andrea Warner-Czyz PhD – 2018-2020 Term
• Fred Telischi MD (CI2019 Chair) – 2018-2020
• For 2nd term: Meredith Holcomb AuD – 2018-2020 Term
• For Chair of the Board: Colin Driscoll for a Third One-Year Term
We are grateful to the Board Members completing their service

Nikolas Blevins MD
Daniel Choo MD
Jill Firszt PhD
Holly Teagle AuD
Executive Directors Report
Celebrating Our Accomplishments

Donna L. Sorkin, Executive Director
Mission: Strategic Plan Goals

1. **Encourage/support research** on candidacy, criteria, broad impacts of CI

2. **Advance awareness** of best practices to broad audience: primary care doctors and other health professionals, early intervention, educators, policy-makers, payers, general public

3. **Educate/encourage policy-makers/payers** to expand access

4. Build an **effective, sustainable organization**
Major Accomplishments this Year

1. Pursued aggressive public policy agenda and expanded State Champion Network
2. Initiated/continued research initiatives
3. Outreach Outside of CI Community
4. New Web Resources and Visibility
5. Grew as an organization

2017 Accomplishments on Website/About Us
“A cochlear implant assessment of any child with a severe to profound hearing loss should be made as early as possible. Outcomes are significantly better with early implantation.”
Membership Expansion

- Membership provides strength & credibility
- Organizational Members: 86 (up from 69)
- Professional Members Total: 1096 (up 9%)
- Students 72 (up 38%) / Consumers 172 (up 23%)
- Total Membership of ACI Alliance: 1435 (11%)
State Champion Network

- 40 States Represented
- Total of 85 State Champions
- Connect on issues with emails and calls + once/year in-person
- Expanding opportunities for involvement via new state committees
- Opportunities for consumers, parents, professionals who want to be involved but just not as much
Public Policy Issues We Addressed

• Broader knowledge of CI among elected and appointed officials and position to argue for appropriate coverage
• Veterans Access
• Maintain Medicaid funding for CI
• Maintain Essential Health Benefits (EHBs) in Healthcare Plans

STATE LEVEL ISSUE
• Support parent choice on CI and child’s communication modality
Veterans Access to CI

- Comments from CI clinicians and candidates about VA process
- Submitted comments to VA (proposed rule) on prosthetics 12/2017
- Candidates not being given info on CI because of age (e.g., mid 70s), type of hearing loss (e.g., Meniere’s), focus on hearing aids and assistive devices, testing only in quiet
- Other issues: distance to surgical center, limited # surgical slots
- Numbers of CI provided in 2016 was 477 (2.5% of expected # based on hearing aids fit)
2016 Adult CI Utilization
VA vs General Population

- 2.5% candidates in VA received CI
- 10% candidates in general population received CI
The Honorable David J. Shulkin, M.D.
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave. N.W., Room 1063B
Washington, D.C. 20420

March XX, 2018

Dear Secretary Shulkin:

We write to express concern regarding veterans’ access to cochlear implants (CI), a hearing technology for individuals with moderate to profound hearing loss who do not benefit sufficiently from traditional hearing aids. Although the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is diligent about the selection of experienced, highly-skilled clinicians to examine veterans, the VHA lags behind the general hearing health community in referring candidates for cochlear implantation. This has created a major coverage gap in cochlear implantation between veterans receiving service in the VHA and those outside the VHA system.

We appreciate your attention to this important issue and look forward to a timely response.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress
Sponsored Research

- Medicare (CMS) Coverage Expansion
- Quality of Life
- Cost Effectiveness
Medicare Sponsored Study

• Objectives
  – Demonstrate that older adults with sentence recognition scores that fall between 40-60% benefit from CI
  – Expand Medicare candidacy to better align with FDA indications

• Findings
  – 28 subjects/strong outcomes but not close to planned patient numbers (90)

• Next Steps
  – Continue to gather data / share with CMS
Quality of Life Research

- Medical University of SC (MUSC) selected via competitive process
- *CI Quality of Life Development Consortium* established to recruit a diverse sample of adult patients
  - 25 CI centers representing all regions of the US
  - Patient recruitment complete / 500 subjects
- Performing psychometric analysis to review themes and domains identified in focus groups
- **Why examine Quality of Life?**
  - Consideration in cost effectiveness of healthcare interventions
  - Non-hearing impacts should be part of the patient advisement process
Focus: (1) Website (2) Outreach on Adult Candidacy

- Web Visibility
- Adult Clinical Guidance (aimed at Primary Care Physicians)
- Older adults—age is not a contraindication
- General audiologists
Website Search

- Google Search points to ACI Alliance website (first page, often #1) on many key topics
  - Examples: Steps to a cochlear implant, insurance, candidacy, what is a cochlear implant, cochlear implant advances, older adults, outcomes in adults/children
  - # Hits + position on page improved
  - Better information on CI for primary care, general public
Steps to a cochlear implant

Steps to a Cochlear Implant - American Cochlear Implant Alliance

Cochlear implants involve a team of people with a range of training and skills. Learn more about what is a cochlear implant and what are the steps to a cochlear implant.
You visited this page on 2/22/18.

[PDF] Cochlear implantation step by step - Oticon Medical

Today cochlear implantation is a safe and proven procedure that everyday helps to improve hearing and the quality of life for over 300,000 people around the world. This booklet has been created to give you an insight into how a cochlear implant works, the medical indications and a step by step description of the road to...

Cochlear implantation step by step | Oticon Medical

Do you know what it takes to get a cochlear Implant? We will walk you through it step by step, from the initial meeting and surgery to the ongoing fittings.
Cochlear Implant Candidacy

Determining Candidacy: Cochlear Implants | Cochlear
www.cochlear.com/wps/wcm/connect/us_for/cochlear-implants/candidacy
Determining the right treatment is essential. Use the selection criteria to see what makes a candidate for a cochlear implant.

Determining Candidacy: Nucleus Hybrid | Cochlear
www.cochlear.com/wps/wcm/connect/us_for/cochlear-nucleus...implant.../candidacy
The Nucleus Hybrid System is indicated for unilateral use in patients aged 18 years and older who have residual low frequency hearing sensitivity and severe to profound high frequency sensorineural hearing loss, and who obtain limited benefit from appropriately fitted bilateral...

Who is a cochlear implant candidate? | The Hearing Journal
https://journals.lww.com/.../Fulltext/.../Who_is_a_cochlear_Implant_candidate_7.aspx
by RH Gifford - 2011 • Cited by 15 • Related articles
Who exactly is a cochlear implant candidate? Initially, only individuals with bilateral profound sensorineural hearing loss with no open set speech recognition were considered candidates for cochlear implantation.

CANDIDACY CRITERIA ... • Adult Implant candidates • Pediatric Implant candidates

Cochlear Implant Candidacy for Adults - American Cochlear Implant ...
https://www.acialliance.org/page/AdultCandidacy
Cochlear implants are different from hearing aids. Advances in the technology, including combining hearing aids with CIs, have expanded candidacy to include individuals with usable residual hearing.
Cochlear Implant Insurance

The majority of **cochlear implant** cost and aftercare is covered by health insurance. ... Medicare, TRICARE, the Veteran's Administration and other federal health plans all provide coverage for **cochlear implants (CI)**.

**Cochlear Implant Insurance - American Cochlear Implant Alliance**
https://www.acialliance.org/page/HealthIns

**People also ask**

- Is a cochlear implant covered by insurance?
- How much does a cochlear implant cost with insurance?
- How much does it cost to have a cochlear implant?
- How long cochlear implant will last long?

**Insurance Resource Center | Cochlear**
www.cochlear.com/wps/wcm/connect/us/home/take-the/..insurance-resource-center

For Medicare and Medicaid/CHIP plans: Medicare covers hearing implants, both cochlear implants and bone conduction implants. ... Medicaid/CHIP covers hearing services for beneficiaries under age 21, and adults may be covered in some states. Please contact your insurance provider or clinic for more information.
Cochlear Implants Older Adults

Cochlear Implantation in Older Adults - NCBI - NIH
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3518393/
by FR Lin - 2012 - Cited by 53 - Related articles
Cochlear implants allow individuals with severe-to-profound hearing loss access to sound and spoken language. The number of older adults in the United States who are potential candidates for cochlear implantation is approximately 150,000 and will continue to increase with the aging of the population. Should cochlear...

Cochlear Implantation in Older Adults: Long-term Analysis of ...
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3744620/
by DS Chen - 2013 - Cited by 25 - Related articles
Objectives. To analyze the postoperative complications associated with cochlear implant (CI) surgery in a large consecutive case series of older adults (≥ 60 years)...
Abstract - MATERIALS AND METHODS - RESULTS - DISCUSSION

Outcomes in Older Adults - American Cochlear Implant Alliance
https://www.acialliance.org/page/OlderAdults
Outcomes in Older Adults: There are no “age limits” for cochlear implantation in older adults. Cochlear implants support cognitive health and have been shown to improve quality of life in people of all ages. A growing number of Medicare beneficiaries are pursuing cochlear implants as their hearing worsens due to...

Cochlear Implantation in Older Adults - American Cochlear Implant Alliance
Cochlear Implant Outcomes

Cochlear implants have considerably improved speech and language outcomes in children with bilateral severe to profound hearing loss [1, 2]. Cochlear implantation is typically offered to individuals who receive limited benefit from conventional stimulation with well-fitted hearing aids. Apr 19, 2006

A retrospective study of cochlear implant outcomes in children with ... https://bmcearnothethrodisord.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1472-6815-6-7

Cochlear implant outcomes in adults and adolescents with early-onset ... https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21934504

In addition, a substantial number gained good open-set speech perception ability, postimplant. Recipients who used oral communication in childhood, had a progressive loss, and wore a hearing aid on the implant ear up to the time of surgery were more likely to obtain better speech perception outcomes.

A retrospective study of cochlear implant outcomes in children with ... https://bmcearnothethrodisord.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1472-6815-6-7

Pediatric Outcomes - American Cochlear Implant Alliance
www.acialliance.org/page/PediatricOutcomes

Cochlear implants support cognitive health and have been shown to improve quality of life in people of all ages. Learn more about cochlear device support and outcomes.
Referral Tool for PCPs

Available on website under Cochlear Implants/Clinical Guidance

**Adult Candidacy for Cochlear Implantation: Clinical Guidance**

Hearing aids provide important benefit for the majority of people with hearing loss. Cochlear implants provide meaningful access to sound for those with more severe hearing loss. Only 5% of US adults who could benefit from CIs have them. The average primary care medical practice includes 8 adult patients who would benefit from a cochlear implant.

**Background**

- Adults who could benefit from CIs typically do not know they are candidates nor what the expected outcomes are
- Age is not a contraindication for CI in otherwise healthy people
- Hearing loss is often progressive
- Hearing acuity declines may be due to noise exposure, genetics, disease, trauma, or ototoxic medications

**Impacts of Untreated Hearing Loss**

- Impairs communication at work, in social settings, and with family
- Interferes with medical treatment and in carrying out activities of daily living
- Associated with social isolation, depression, all-cause dementia, and declines in mental flexibility in older adults
• Address perception that 80 is too old to get a CI
• Describe the CI journey (it’s similar)
ACI Alliance State Champions Panel

• Jerrica Maxson AuD, ND
• Sarah Mowry MD, OH
• Jason Wigand AuD, SC
• Naomi Horton MS, IN
• David Kelsall MD, CO
• Victoria Gonzalez AuD, MS
New Grant Opportunity: Cost Effectiveness

- Societal Costs of Severe-Profound Hearing Loss
- Study intended to explore and recommend detailed plan for updating seminal Project HOPE study by Mohr et al (2000)
- Partnership with American Hearing Research Foundation
- Proposals due Aug 15, 2018—information on ACI Alliance website under Research