Welcome to the CI2021 Virtual Conference

Education is something I yearn for, and I get so excited each year when conference time nears. I don't know about you, but even though we are not in person, I am still thrilled to “see” each of you in my living room. Of course the conference venue looks a little different this year, but the program content is perhaps better than any conference in the past. I think you will love the innovative panels and top notch research we have planned for you over the next few days. Expect to discover new CI techniques, engage in intellectually stimulating virtual conversations, and reflect on how you can incorporate the conference's research-driven information into your everyday practice. I can't wait to improve my own CI practice with the high quality knowledge I will undoubtedly gain this week. I certainly do not think about cochlear implants the same way I did when I started my career, and I strongly believe the primary way we become better clinicians is to constantly listen, learn, read, and apply current research to our old habits of clinical service.

The topic of “It Takes A Village” is perhaps even more relevant now given the landscape of the past year. If we've learned nothing else since the COVID Pandemic halted the globe, we confidently can say we need one another...professionally and personally. While your village may be small or expansive, the truth is we cannot do our jobs alone and we cannot serve our patients appropriately without the help from our colleagues. Hug (safely) your team members a little tighter when you see them and remember we are all in this together.

I cannot say enough wonderful things about the CI2021 Conference Committee and specifically the co-chairs, Dr. Matt Carlson (Mayo Clinic) and Dr. Sarah Sydlowski (Cleveland Clinic). They worked tirelessly to create an exciting program that you are sure to enjoy and we are grateful for their efforts. These individuals are all listed in the program book. Thank you to Donna Sorkin and the Board of Directors for their commitment to improve the organization and increase CI access.

Thank you also to our State Champions for their advocacy efforts and to the entire membership for their loyalty and service. We would not be where we are today without your involvement. We also are extremely grateful to the cochlear implant manufacturers and other exhibitors for their unwavering support. I encourage you to visit each of them in the virtual exhibit area and learn more about their products and service delivery models.

The American Cochlear Implant Alliance is committed to improving access to cochlear implantation through advocacy, awareness and research. I hope you see that message shine through every second of CI2021, and I hope you leave this conference a better CI clinician, scientist or educator than when you arrived. Thank you for taking time out of your life to join us this week!

Meredith Holcomb, AuD
Chair, Board of Directors
Welcome from the ACI Alliance CI Program Chairs

Ask any audiologist, surgeon, therapist, educator, psychologist, parent, or implant recipient and they'll all agree: Cochlear Implantation - It takes a village! Challenges associated with this past year -- operating room restrictions, redeployments, distance-programming, and therapy though Plexiglas -- offer us all a new appreciation for what it means to pull together to meet our patients' needs, rely on colleagues, and to celebrate team successes.

What a perfect year to organize a meeting by bringing together diverse perspectives. New for CI2021, this year's meeting was not organized by a single center, but instead has been planned by a geographically and specialty diverse program committee comprised of audiologists, surgeons, therapists and educators from 15 distinct programs from across the country. Further, the Virtual format enables greater collaboration from centers around the world. CI2021 connects all of us in exciting new ways for a common purpose – to share advances in basic, translational, and multidisciplinary clinical research to better serve the patients who entrust us with their care.

Despite some challenges, the last year hasn't slowed down the tremendous work being done around the world and we are thrilled to offer a program with 100 high quality podium presentations and nearly 200 posters. At a time when continuing education credits are more difficult to come by, we are pleased to offer on-demand session viewing with CEUs for audiologists and speech-language pathologists, so you can watch and claim credit for all the great sessions this meeting will offer! No more deciding between two outstanding sessions or lamenting that you can't be in two places at once! This offering is in addition to the customary CME and CEU offering for virtual meeting attendance.

Also new this year, we are celebrating the strongest submissions in a highly competitive pool – the nine highest-ranked podium presentations will be acknowledged with Top Abstract Awards and the 30 top-ranked poster abstracts will be presented as 3-minute podium talks in three Poster Highlight sessions. These awards are not to be confused with the student poster competition which had 64 submissions and will highlight the outstanding efforts of the up-and-coming experts in implantable technologies.

We are so excited to welcome you ... it's virtually here!

Matthew Carlson, MD
Sarah Sydlowski, AuD, PhD, MBA

Thank you to the CI2021 Program Committee!

Board of Directors
Meredith Holcomb, AuD
Chair of the ACI Alliance Board
University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Miami, FL

Donna L. Sorkin, MA
ACI Alliance, Executive Director
McLean, VA

Daniel Zeitler, MD
ACI Alliance Board Liaison
Virginia Mason Medical Center, Seattle, WA

Committee Chairs
Matthew Carlson, MD
Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN

Sarah Sydlowski, AuD, PhD, MBA
Cleveland Clinic
Cleveland, OH

Committee Members
Matthew L. Bush MD, PhD
University of Kentucky
Lexington, KY

Ivette Cejas, PhD
University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Miami, FL

Heather Grantham, PhD
Washington University
St. Louis, MO

Ana H. Kim, MD
Columbia University Medical Center, New York, NY

Kenneth H. Lee, MD, PhD
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
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Kara Leyzac, AuD, PhD
Medical University of South Carolina
Charleston, SC

Nancy K. Mellon, MS
The River School
Washington D.C.

Aaron Moberly, MD
The Ohio State University
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Sarah Mowry, MD
University Hospitals Case Western Reserve University
Cleveland, OH

Lisa Park, AuD
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Sandra Prentiss, PhD
University of Miami Miller School of Medicine
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John Tracy Center
Los Angeles, CA

Holly Teagle, AuD
The Hearing House
Auckland, New Zealand

Naoa Tsach, PhD
Speech-Language Pathologist and Educational Audiologist
Rockville, MD
The American Cochlear Implant Alliance is a not-for-profit membership organization created with the purpose of eliminating barriers to cochlear implantation.

The ACI Alliance membership spans scientists and clinicians from across the cochlear implant continuum of care including otolaryngologists, audiologists, speech pathologists, psychologists, and others in cochlear implant teams. Parents of children with cochlear implants, adult recipients, and other advocates for access to care are also active members who are also active members. Our initiatives include research, advocacy and awareness.

American Cochlear Implant Alliance organizes clinical research meetings utilizing a variety of formats. These annual events always involve considerable collaboration with our membership including individuals and institutions, governmental agencies, for-profit and non-profit companies. Conferences are designed to stimulate learning and thinking about cochlear implants and drive our mission of improving CI care and access to cochlear implantation for people of all ages.

Acknowledgements

The American Cochlear Implant Alliance was founded by volunteers and we are grateful to everyone who donates their time, talent, and services to support the CI2021 meeting and the organization throughout the year. It Takes A Village and we are grateful for ours!

ACI Alliance Board of Directors
ACI Alliance Committee Members
ACI Alliance Staff and Volunteers
State Champions

The State Champion network was established in 2013 as one of the first programs implemented by the newly organized ACI Alliance as a means of harnessing the knowledge and energy of our members throughout the US, and applying this knowledge and energy to advocacy efforts. They represent the full continuum of cochlear implant clinical care and also include CI recipients and parents of children with cochlear implants. We are appreciative of their important contributions in advancing our mission. Read more about State Champions

Membership

ACI Alliance offers membership to consumers, health professionals and health related organizations. Learn more about membership in ACI Alliance

We are especially grateful to the CI centers, clinics and schools that are supporting ACI Alliance and expanding access to CI care as Organizational Members. All staff at member institutions are considered part of the Organizational Membership and are part of the directory, and 10 individuals from each institution may attend the annual CI conference at the member rate.

Click here or click the map at left to explore all of the 100+ Organizational Members
The CI2021 Virtual Conference will provide an educational environment that fosters the dissemination of high-quality scientific information applicable to clinicians, scientists, educators and all others involved in the field of cochlear implantation. The conference will provide attendees with opportunities to explore current and emerging topics that have a significant impact on improving outcomes for adults and children with cochlear implants and other auditory devices.

The conference will explore topics related to telemedicine, health care access, innovations in technology and care delivery, expanding indications, and other aspects directed toward improving outcomes in children and adults including:

- Social justice and hearing health care in order to address equity in cochlear implantation
- Preoperative patient considerations and counseling regarding projected outcomes
- Surgical innovations surrounding drug-eluting electrodes, robotic-assisted surgery, intraoperative navigation, and intraoperative monitoring
- Music appreciation, perception, and listening habits of people with cochlear implants
- Economics, public policy, and practice management
- Aspects of (re)habilitation including the complexities of family-centered intervention, maximizing reading potential, and challenge of transitioning to life beyond high school for students who use cochlear implants
- Comparative outcomes of cochlear implant recipients implanted under expanded indications including patient, device, and rehabilitative factors that contribute to performance

At the end of this activity, participants will be able to:

- Describe novel strategies utilizing telemedicine to support distance-education, programming, and rehabilitation
- Identify challenges and opportunities in cochlear implant care during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Review benefits of cochlear implantation in single-sided deafness and asymmetrical hearing loss
- Define strategies, challenges, and outcomes of cochlear implantation in patients with vestibular schwannomas
- Identify the roles of therapy and education and how that relates to family engagement
- Explain innovative ways of developing and maintaining a multidisciplinary cochlear implant program
- Relate mechanisms and methods of hearing preservation during cochlear implantation
- Describe the impact of cognition on cochlear implant outcomes in children and adults
- Explain listening effort outcomes in people with hearing loss and cochlear implants
- Review mapping processes and strategies for patients implanted under expanded indications

Funding for this conference was made possible (in part) by R13 DC019261-01A1 from the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communications Disorder and the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research, both of the National Institutes of Health. The views expressed in written conference materials or publications and by speakers and moderators do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the NIH; nor does mention by trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.
Continuing Education

Continuing Education Credits

American Academy of Audiology (AAA)
ACI Alliance is approved by the American Academy of Audiology to offer Academy CEUs for this activity. The program is worth a maximum of 3.4 CEUs / 1.15 Tier 1 CEUs. Academy approval of this continuing education activity does not imply endorsement of course content, specific products, or clinical procedures. Any views that are presented are those of the presenter/CE provider and not necessarily of the American Academy of Audiology.

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association ASHA CEUs (Professional area, Intermediate level) will be offered for this activity.

The on-demand conference will be offered for up to 3.45 ASHA CEUs (Intermediate Level; Professional Area). The on-demand conference will be available from 5/2/21 – 5/31/21.

AG Bell Academy for Listening and Spoken Language
This program has been approved by the AG Bell Academy of Listening and Spoken Language to offer up to 34.5 LLS CEUs.

International Hearing Society (IHS)
ACI Alliance is approved by the International Hearing Society to offer continuing education for this course. This course [CEN-486-21] is approved for up to 36.5 credit(s) of continuing education (1 CE Credit = 1 contact hour). IHS approval of this course is based on the course’s adherence to IHS’s course approval requirements only and does not imply endorsement of the course content, specific products, clinical procedure, instructor or adherence to the IHS Code of Ethics. Any views that are presented are those of the presenter/Education Provider and not necessarily of the International Hearing Society.

Continuing Medical Education Credit Information

Accreditation
This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the Essential Areas and Policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of the American College of Surgeons and the American Cochlear Implant Alliance. The American College of Surgeons is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™
The American College of Surgeons designates this live activity for a maximum of 11.75 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Disclosure Information
In accordance with the ACCME Accreditation Criteria, the American College of Surgeons must ensure that anyone in a position to control the content of the educational activity (planners and speakers/ authors/ discussants/ moderators) has disclosed all financial relationships with any commercial interest (termed by the ACCME as “ineligible companies”) held in the last 24 months. Please note that first authors were required to collect and submit disclosure information on behalf all other authors/contributors, if applicable. Visit the Resources page for the complete disclosure list.

Credit Claiming and Certificates
Visit the CME/CEU Claiming page to review credit claiming instructions, complete evaluations, and collect your certificate. If you have any questions regarding CEU, please contact Jessica Houk at jhouk@acialliance.org.

Visit the Resources page to download a printable Certificate of Attendance. Please note that this certificate does not confer any continuing education credits.
We are delighted to welcome Congresswoman Debbie Dingell (MI-12) who will speak live at the Opening Session on Thursday, April 29. Hearing healthcare issues are a priority for Congresswoman Dingell and will be the focus of her remarks at the conference.

We also will recognize two Lifetime Achievement Award recipients -- join us in honoring these leaders in the field for their achievements!

- Ann Geers, PhD (2020 Award), University of Texas at Dallas
- Richard Miyamoto, MD (2021 Award), Indiana University School of Medicine

This year's Niparko Lecturer is Konstantina Stankovic, MD, PhD of Harvard University Medical School. Dr. Stankovic’s lecture takes place following the conference opening and is entitled “Degeneration and Regeneration of the Inner Ear.”

Virtual Poster Session
Thursday, April 29 | 4:30 – 5:30 pm ET

CI2021 electronic posters (ePosters) cover the latest in cochlear implant research from around the globe. During the interactive ePoster Session on Thursday afternoon, authors will be available for video and text chats to discuss their research. Don't miss this opportunity to connect with ePoster authors and expand your knowledge.

Musical Event with Richard Reed
Thursday, April 29 | 5:30 - 6:00 pm ET

Grab your family for an entertaining intermezzo with Rhode Island Music Hall of Famer Richard Reed: Embracing Your Inner Distortion: A CI Musician Plays and Demonstrates. Richard will share his experiences and play, demonstrating how getting a CI changed the way he played and listened to music. His music career included playing Hammond organ with Junior Walker & the All Stars and many other R&B, Blues, and Rock and Roll artists.

ACI Alliance Organizational Update on Advocacy and Sponsored Research Activities and Keynote Lecture
Friday, April 30 | 9:45 – 11:00 am ET

All are invited to attend this update from ACI Alliance Leadership on Advocacy and Sponsored Research Activities. Then, hear from Keynote Lecturer Alejandro Rivas, MD of University Hospitals in Cleveland, OH on “Improving CI Access with a Spanish Test Battery.”

Cochlear Implant Cribs: Multidisciplinary Cochlear Implant Team Video Series
Saturday, May 1 | 12:30 – 1:30 pm ET

The conference closes with a new video session featuring the creative innovations or “clinical practice hacks” used by nine different multidisciplinary cochlear implant teams. As we all know, it takes more than a magnet to keep a processor on...it takes a village! Stick around and learn some tips & tricks from multidisciplinary CI programs from across the country.
Join the Conversation!
Stay connected during CI2021 by following and using the hashtag #CI2021Virtual. Follow @aciailliance for the latest on the conference, and join in the conversation during the sessions to discuss the presentations, the posters, or your favorite part of the virtual exhibit hall. Be sure to use the hashtag #CI2021Virtual when tweeting about the conference.

Communication Access
The entire conference will be accessible for individuals with hearing loss. Every session will offer captioning by experienced CART reporters who have worked with our CI conference in the past.

Recording Consent
By registering for the CI2021 Virtual Meeting, you acknowledge that sessions will be recorded and chats will be transcribed and saved within the ACI Alliance meeting platform. Recorded sessions are owned by ACI Alliance and will be made available for on-demand viewing. If you have questions regarding session recording, please email registration@facs.org.

On Demand Sessions
Visit the On Demand Sessions tab within the virtual platform to view all available session recordings. Recordings will be made available 24 hours after the live session has ended and until June 1st. Credits may be claimed for live and on demand sessions.

General Conference Information

Exhibits & Industry Supporters
The American Cochlear Implant Alliance wishes to recognize and thank the following companies for their commercial promotion towards this educational activity. Please gratefully acknowledge their support by visiting their booth in the Exhibit Hall.

Click an exhibitor's logo to enter their booth and learn more about each company, their products or services, schedule a meeting, or live chat with a company representative.

Platinum:
- Advanced Bionics
- Cochlear Americas
- MED-EL

Gold:
- Oticon Medical

Silver:
- CapTel Captioned Telephone
- Cognivue
- Envoy Medical
- Heroes With Hearing Loss
- KURZ Medical Inc.
- Plural Publishing
- T-Mobile Accessibility
- ZEISS

Non-Profit:
- ACI Alliance
- Described and Captioned Media Program
- National CMV Foundation

Passport to Prizes
We will be holding a Passport to Prizes game during CI2021. Click “Collect Stamp” to answer a question about the exhibitor and add the stamp to your passport to prizes. Collect all the stamps to be entered to win a $250 Visa gift card or free registration to CI2022.

Industry Satellite Symposia
The CI2021 Virtual Meeting includes several Industry Satellite Symposia. These events are organized separately by each individual supporter, are independent of the scientific program of the CI2021 Virtual Meeting, and are not accredited for CME. CEUs are provided for all Corporate Satellite Symposia. Click here for a list of all Industry Satellite Symposia.
Tips for Navigating the Virtual Platform

Build Your Agenda
Select “My Agenda” to view your personal agenda, or toggle back to “Full Agenda” to see the entire conference schedule or add more sessions to your schedule.
- To add the session to your calendar, click on the calendar icon. This will download an iCalendar file which may be saved to your personal calendar.
- To add a session to your agenda within the platform, click the plus sign.

Session Screen
To join a session taking place LIVE, click the green "Join" button. Once a session begins, we encourage attendees to engage through the Chat and Q&A feature. Be aware that all attendees and presenters in that session will be able to see your chat and Q&A. Most sessions have a designated time for Q&A in which moderators and presenters will have an opportunity to address your questions. When a question is posted in the Q&A, you will be able to upvote the question so moderators can identify important topics to discuss during the designated Q&A time.

Presenter and Attendee Profiles
Visit the Presenters tab to see a list of all conference presenters, their sessions, bios, and contact details. Don’t forget to complete your own attendee profile so that you can connect with others throughout the conference.

Connect with Exhibitors
To visit an exhibitor’s booth, click on their logo.
- To Live Chat with a company representative, enter their “booth” and scroll down to the Interactive Tool section. You will be able to see a schedule of when live chats are available for you to join.
- To Schedule a One-on-One Conversation, scroll down to the Schedule a Meeting section, select a date and time that is available and click “Book”. You will get a message with your confirmed date and time.

ePoster Hall
Sort by Category, Keyword, or Search by Title or Author, then click on the poster you wish to visit. Here you’ll see the full electronic poster, review the author information, and in many cases listen to a short audio description of the research.

Help Desk
If you have any questions or issues accessing or navigating the virtual platform, visit the Help Desk for more information and to connect with a member of our team.

Save the Dates for Upcoming CI Meetings

May 18 - 21, 2022 | WASHINGTON, DC
CI2022: Emerging Issues in Cochlear Implantation
Organizer: American Cochlear Implant Alliance

February 23-25, 2023 | VALENCIA, SPAIN
CI2023 International: 17th International Conference on Cochlear Implants and other Implantable Auditory Technologies
Chairs: Prof. Angel Ramos and Prof. Manuel Manrique Rodriguez

June 7-10, 2023 | DALLAS, TX
CI2023: Cochlear Implants in Children and Adults
Organizer: American Cochlear Implant Alliance