CI CAN Update

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In our most recent (November 2020) issue of Calling, we discussed the rollout of our new advocacy initiative: Cochlear Implant Consumer Advocacy Network, or CI CAN. Since then, we have steadily increased our CI CAN members and held three successful training sessions for network members. We still have a long way to go to reach the numbers we need to have a vigorous impact. We need your help in reaching out to consumers, parents, family members and others interested in advocating to grow CI CAN and share the importance of advocating for better hearing health for all.

Kelly Flodin is one of our newer members, hailing from South Carolina. In his application to join CI CAN, he noted, “I had hearing aids for years with limited results and was kind of discouraged from getting implants by my audiologists. By accident I was referred to Medical University of South Carolina for a candidacy evaluation by an interim audiologist filling in at one of my appointments. She told me I would likely be a good CI candidate and I decided to go through with it. That was 6/12/2020. The difference with cochlear implants is life-changing. My grandparents, parents, and 5 of 7 sibs wore or wear hearing aids and nobody ever recommended checking into CIs for any of us. The reason I would be interested in participating is just to help get the word out that CIs are an option with tremendous upside for hard of hearing people who struggle with hearing aids.”

Flodin’s comments highlight that advocacy is not only aimed at politicians, but also those active in hearing healthcare. Please help us grow this network by sharing information on CI CAN with your patients, colleagues, students, and friends. Information, including a printable flyer, is available on our website by clicking here: https://www.acialliance.org/page/CI_CAN.

Coming Soon from ACI Alliance!

Advocating for Cochlear Implant Access:
ACI Alliance Toolkit for Action

With chapters on:
• What is Advocacy?
• Constructs for Cochlear Implant Advocacy
• The Legislative Process
• The US Regulatory Process: Putting Laws to Work
• Building Relationships with Key Officials and Staff
• Framing Your Story
• ACI Alliance Advocacy Networks