For Immediate Release – October 21, 2021

American Cochlear Implant Alliance Announces Dr. René Gifford as 2022 Niparko Lecturer

Washington, D.C.: American Cochlear Implant Alliance (ACI Alliance) announced René Gifford PhD will deliver the Dr. John K. Niparko Memorial Lecture at CI2022 DC on “The Evolution of Cochlear Implant Care.” ACI Alliance is hosting CI 2022 DC as an in-person conference in Washington, DC May 18-21, 2022 to explore the program theme “Emerging Issues in Cochlear Implantation.”

ACI Alliance established the Niparko Lecture to be given at the annual conference to recognize Dr. Niparko’s enduring commitment to cochlear implant research and clinical care and honor his significant contributions to the field. René Gifford PhD, an audiologist, researcher, and professor in the Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, will deliver the 2022 Niparko Lecture at the Opening Session on Thursday morning. Dr. Gifford is the Director of the Cochlear Implant Research Laboratory, Director of the Cochlear Implant Program in the Division of Audiology, and Director of Research for the National Center for Childhood Deafness and Family Communication (NCCDFC) at the Vanderbilt Bill Wilkerson Center.

Dr. Gifford has contributed notably to the evolution of CI care including enhancing our knowledge of auditory perception via combined electric and acoustic stimulation, identifying patient-specific variables that may impact outcomes, and exploring spatial hearing abilities of individuals using hearing aids and cochlear implants. Dr. Gifford’s research, clinical care, and large body of published work has helped evolve the way we provide cochlear implant care to patients of all ages. She has published over 120 peer-reviewed articles and multiple book chapters and authored a book, now in its second edition, Cochlear Implant Patient Assessment: Evaluation of Candidacy, Performance, and Outcomes. Dr. Gifford has been awarded the 2015 “Louis M. DiCarlo Award for Recent Clinical Achievement,” the 2017 “Vanderbilt University Chancellor's Award for Research” and the 2021 “Jerger Career Award for Research in Audiology.”

ACI Alliance is a not-for-profit membership organization created with the purpose of eliminating barriers to cochlear implantation by sponsoring research, driving heightened awareness and advocating for improved access to cochlear implants for patients of all ages across the US.

For more information on CI2022 DC visit www.acialliance.org/page/CI2022
For more information on the Niparko Lecture visit www.acialliance.org/page/JKNMemorial

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