Welcome,

I want to thank you for your interest in the Cochlear Implant Program at OHSU. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with some background on our program and with information on the process for obtaining a cochlear implant.

The Cochlear Implant (CI) Program at OHSU has been in operation since 1983 and from that time, over 1,000 patients have received cochlear implants at OHSU. Our program has continued to grow, making our program one of the largest centers on the west coast, implanting approximately 70 patients in the last year. The Cochlear Implant Program has a staff of one Otologist (surgeon) and four audiologists/fellows. We offer our patients the choice of three excellent devices: The Nucleus 5 System, by Cochlear Corporation, the HiResolution Bionic Ear System, by Advanced Bionics; and the Maestro system by Med-Ei.

The criteria for receiving a cochlear implant in adults is a severe to profound sensorineural hearing loss with limited benefit from hearing aids. **In order to evaluate your hearing, you must bring your hearing aids to the audiological evaluation appointment.** To determine candidacy, patients are required to participate in a comprehensive audiological evaluation consisting of listening to sentences while wearing your hearing aids. In addition, a patient also undergoes a medical examination and consultation consisting of a physical exam and an MRI and CT scan. Once eligibility is determined our authorization specialist contacts your insurance provider to determine your surgical benefits. The total cost of the implant, including the device, hospital fees, surgical fees, and programming for the first year is approximately $60,000. At this time the procedure is covered by most insurance, including Medicare and Medicaid. **However, we urge all interested candidates to contact their insurance provider to determine if Cochlear Implants are a covered item in their policy.** When authorization has been obtained a surgery date is scheduled.

The benefit a patient can expect varies considerably depending on a number of factors including: how long the hearing loss has been present, the person’s hearing aid use, and the degree of the hearing loss. At a minimum, all patients will be able to detect the presence of sound; will hear speech and environmental sounds, and see an improvement in lip-reading skills. Many patients will see improvement beyond the minimum, including some understanding of speech without visual cues and even use of the phone. It is impossible to determine the level of benefit a patient will obtain prior to implantation.

In recent years there have been significant improvements in cochlear implants. While the benefit derived from the implant is not specific to a particular device, there are differences between devices. These will be reviewed as part of the evaluation/consultation process.

We understand that the process of getting a cochlear implant is very complicated. The purpose of this letter is to give you preliminary information on the process at OHSU. We encourage you to contact the implant company web sites (see attached) to get more information on the devices and
to help you to formulate questions before you come to the clinic. To complete the assessment and provide you with information on the devices the evaluation is divided into two appointments. Enclosed is an overview of the appointment schedule, and what will take place.

Thank you again for your interest, and should you have any questions please feel free to contact Maria Leo, our Administrative Assistant at 503-494-4394, or one of us by email at cochlear@ohsu.edu. Please bring this packet with you to your appointment.

Sincerely,

Donald Plapinger, Ed.D., C.C.C.A.
Director, Clinical Audiology
Coordinator, Cochlear Implant Program
Department of Otolaryngology/Head & Neck Surgery
What To Expect While Pursuing a Cochlear Implant
Timeline of Events

• Patient Calls to begin Cochlear Implant process

• Welcome packet sent to patient and Scheduling/Authorization process begins
  ▪ This may take from 2-4 weeks depending on insurance companies

• Audiological evaluation (day one)
  ▪ This appointment lasts up to 90 minutes. This includes all testing
    including the completion of several questionnaires. **Determines if patient is a candidate. If not other appointments are cancelled**

• MRI and CT (day one or two)
  ▪ These tests help us rule out any physical abnormalities that would prevent
    the cochlear implant from being properly inserted.

• Medical Evaluation (day two)
  ▪ The physician will review the MRI and CT and discuss the
    medical/surgical aspects of the cochlear implant.

• Device Review and Counseling on potential benefits (day two)
  ▪ This appointment usually lasts approximately 90 minutes. This
    includes time spent with an audiological explaining the implant
    systems OHSU offers

• Obtain Authorization from insurance for Surgery (4-8 weeks)

• Pre-op appointment

• Surgery
  ▪ It is generally 4-8 weeks from initial evaluation to surgery depending on
    authorization
COCHLEAR IMPLANT PATIENTS:
ADULT FOLLOW UP PROTOCOL

I. INITIAL ACTIVATION: 2-4 WEEKS POST SURGERY
   A. IMPLANT IS TURNED ON

II. SECOND STIMULATION: 1-4 DAYS AFTER ACTIVATION
    A. PROGRAMS ARE SET IN SPEECH PROCESSOR

III. 2 WEEK FOLLOW-UP: 2 WEEKS POST ACTIVATION/STIMULATION
     A. CHECK PATIENT’S PROGRESS, REVIEW ALL ACCESSORIES
        THAT CAME W/SPEECH PROCESSOR SYSTEM

IV. 1 MONTH FOLLOW-UP: 2 WEEKS AFTER 2 WEEK FOLLOW-UP
    A. PATIENT IS PUT IN THE BOOTH TO HAVE HEARING TESTED/
       TO COMPARE W/PRE-IMPLANT TEST SCORES
    B. AUDIOLOGIST CHECKS/FINE TUNES PROGRAMS IF NECESSARY
    C. NEXT FOLLOW UP APPOINTMENT SCHEDULED ACCORDING
       TO HOW PATIENT IS ADJUSTING TO IMPLANT USE

REMAINDER OF APPOINTMENTS SCHEDULED ARE SET ACCORDING TO
THE PATIENT’S PROGRESS W/THEIR IMPLANT. THE FOLLOWING
APPOINTMENTS ARE SET/BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

V. 3 MONTH FOLLOW-UP:
   A. AUDIOLOGIST CHECKS/FINE TUNES PROGRAMS

VI. 6 MONTH FOLLOW-UP
    A. AUDIOLOGIST CHECKS/FINE TUNES PROGRAMS IF NECESSARY

VII. 12 MONTH FOLLOW-UP
     A. PATIENT IS PUT IN THE BOOTH TO HAVE HEARING TESTED/
       TO COMPARE W/PREVIOUS TEST SCORES
     B. AUDIOLOGIST CHECKS/FINE TUNES PROGRAMS IF NECESSARY

AFTER THE FIRST YEAR POST SURGERY PATIENTS ARE SEEN ON AN ANNUAL
BASIS OR AS NEEDED.
ADULT COCHLEAR IMPLANT RESOURCES

COCHLEAR IMPLANT COMPANIES
Cochlear Corporation
13059 East Peakview Ave
Centennial, CO 80111
1-800-523-5798
www.cochlear.com

Advanced Bionics
12740 San Fernando Rd
Sylmar, CA 91342
1-800-678-2575
www.advancedbionics.com

Med-El
2511 Old Cornwallis Rd
Suite 100
Durham, NC 27713
www.medel.com

ONLINE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES
Cochlear Implant Association, Inc.
http://hearingloss.org/ciai/

Cl Hear
http://www.cihear.com/

Sources of Cochlear Implant Funding
www.listen-up.org/haidfund.htm

Cochlear Anatomy
oto.wustl.edu/cochlea/intro2.htm

The Hearing Exchange
http://www.hearingexchange.com/resources/

Cochlear Implants: Navigating a Forest of Information... One Tree at a Time” by Debra Nussbaum at Gallaudet University
http://clerccenter2.gallaudet.edu/KidsWorldDeafNet/e-docs/CI/index.html

OTHER HELPFUL RESOURCES
Title: Rebuilt: How Becoming Part Computer Made Me More Human
Author: Michael Chorost
ISBN: 0618378294
SUMMARY: Rebuilt offers a unique perspective on life with a cochlear implant. This book is brilliantly and creatively authored by Michael Chorost, a cochlear implant user.

Title: Hear Again: Back to Life with a Cochlear Implant
Author: Arlene Romoff
ISBN: 0967784301
SUMMARY: A diary of Romoff’s first-year experiences with her cochlear implant (CI), compiled from her Internet postings. This book chronicles one person’s yearlong odyssey from deafness to functional hearing.

Cochlear Implant Accessories
www.gearforears.com
BILATERAL IMPLANT INFORMATION

Please visit http://www.bilateral.cochlear.com where you will find:

Link to "Find a Clinic"
Request to be connected to a bilateral recipient: testimonials
Link to downloadable (PDF) white papers and bibliography of research articles
Answers to common questions
Potential benefits/"If one works well, why get two?"
What about future technology?
How does receiving a second implant affect programming and therapy?

EMAIL LISTSERV RESOURCES

York Cochlear Implant Forum
Send email to: listserv@yorku.ca
Directions: Leave subject line blank. In body of message type “subscribe ci (your 1st name last name)” For example: “subscribe ci john smith”

Yahoo! Groups (http://groups.yahoo.com)
a) CiCircle
Send email to: cicircle-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
b) CiHear
Send email to: CIHear-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
c) ci
Send email to: ci-subscribe@yahoogroups.com