



Bowen Tang

- Bowen is an educator with a lived experience of hearing loss, being a bimodal CI recipient, who believes in the value of connection and power of community.
- As an international activist, he is passionate about raising awareness or accessibility and inclusion by working with local and global organizations to transform society's mindset towards people with hearing loss.
- He is President of International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young People, (IFHOHYP) and works globally, while being based in Vancouver.
- Bowen is currently an Engagement Manager at Cochlear Canada.

REALITIES FACED BY YOUNG PEOPLE WITH CIs

- Focused on other priorities in life: school, work
- CI taken for granted for those who have been well supported by their families and interventionists
- They don't know what they don't know – short term vision, focused on the present rather than the future



POTENTIAL PROBLEMS ARISING

- Lack of awareness about CI technology, not maximizing the benefits
- Lack of preparedness towards equipment failure and troubleshooting
- Lack of motivation towards advocacy for better access



NEED FOR CAPACITY BUILDING AND CONNECTION

- Educate and empower users to take ownership of the lifelong care for their CIs
- Understand potential long-term risks, prepare for worst case scenarios
- Connect with a peer network of CI users and mentors

