



Bowen Tang

- Bowen is an educator with a lived experience of hearing loss, being a bilateral CI recipient, who believes in the value of connection and power of community.
- 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.

CI ADULTS IMPLANTED AS CHILDREN – CURRENT REALITIES

- 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
- Focused on other priorities in life: school, work



POTENTIAL PROBLEMS ARISING

- Lack of awareness about CI technology, not maximizing the benefits, unaware of the latest criteria (e.g., bilateral implantation)
- Lack of preparedness towards equipment failure and troubleshooting
- Lack of motivation towards advocacy for better access – not knowing what questions to ask of their hearing healthcare providers



IMPACT OF LIVING GUIDELINES – RELEVANT KEY AREAS

○ Screening & Evaluation:

- Educate and empower users to take ownership of the lifelong care for their CIs
- Understand potential long-term risks, prepare for worst case scenarios

○ Rehabilitation:

- Connect with a peer network of CI users and mentors
- Keep up-to-date with latest resources (e.g., music appreciation)
- Need for a structured rehab program post-sequential implantation

