

PIN DROP

Advocating for Adult Cochlear Implants

V O L U N T E E R V O I C E S D R I V E S Y S T E M I C C H A N G E

L E E S C H O U S H K O F F



The Power of Consumer Voice

- CI users at the heart of advocacy
- Volunteers humanize hearing loss through personal stories
- Health consumer skills training to increase knowledge and understanding of local & global health systems.

Advocacy Training

- Media Training & Public Speaking
- Healthcare & government systems
- Health Economics
- Hearing Technology





Raising Awareness

- Events
- Real-life stories
- Consumers as ambassadors in public education



Direct Lobbying & Campaigns

- #HearMe campaign and others
- CI users, clinicians, researchers united
- Result: Sustainable funding obtained (From 40 to 120 Adult CI's per annum Nationally)

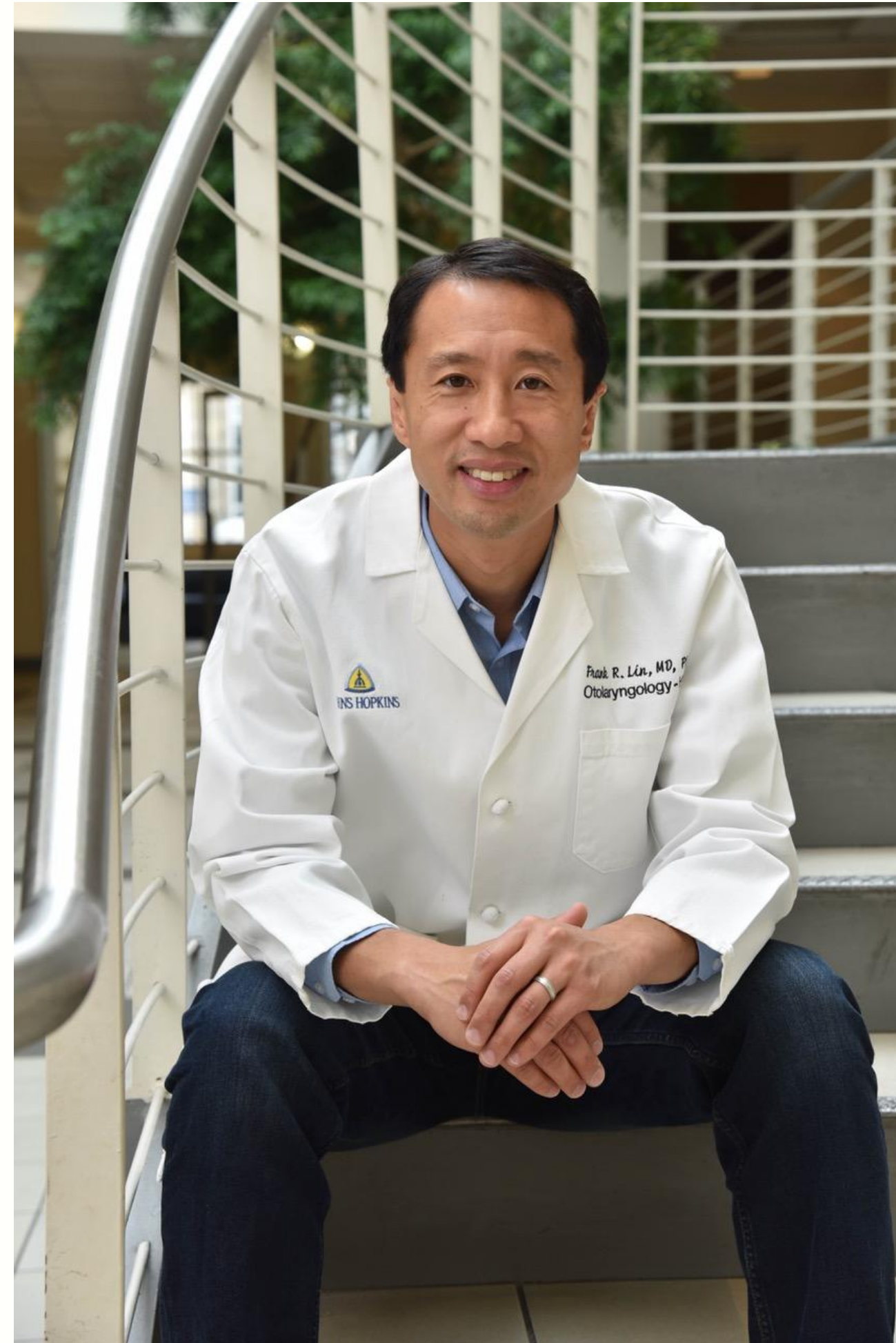
Building Community Networks

- Consumer-led peer support groups
- Forums and workshops
- Mobilizing community voices for sustained advocacy



Global Engagement

- Hosted Forums with international delegates in 2015, 2017, 2019
- Membership of CIICA
- Collaboration and involvement International CI Day
- Collaboration in The Living Guidelines for CI



Summary and Call to Action

Consumers are
change agents

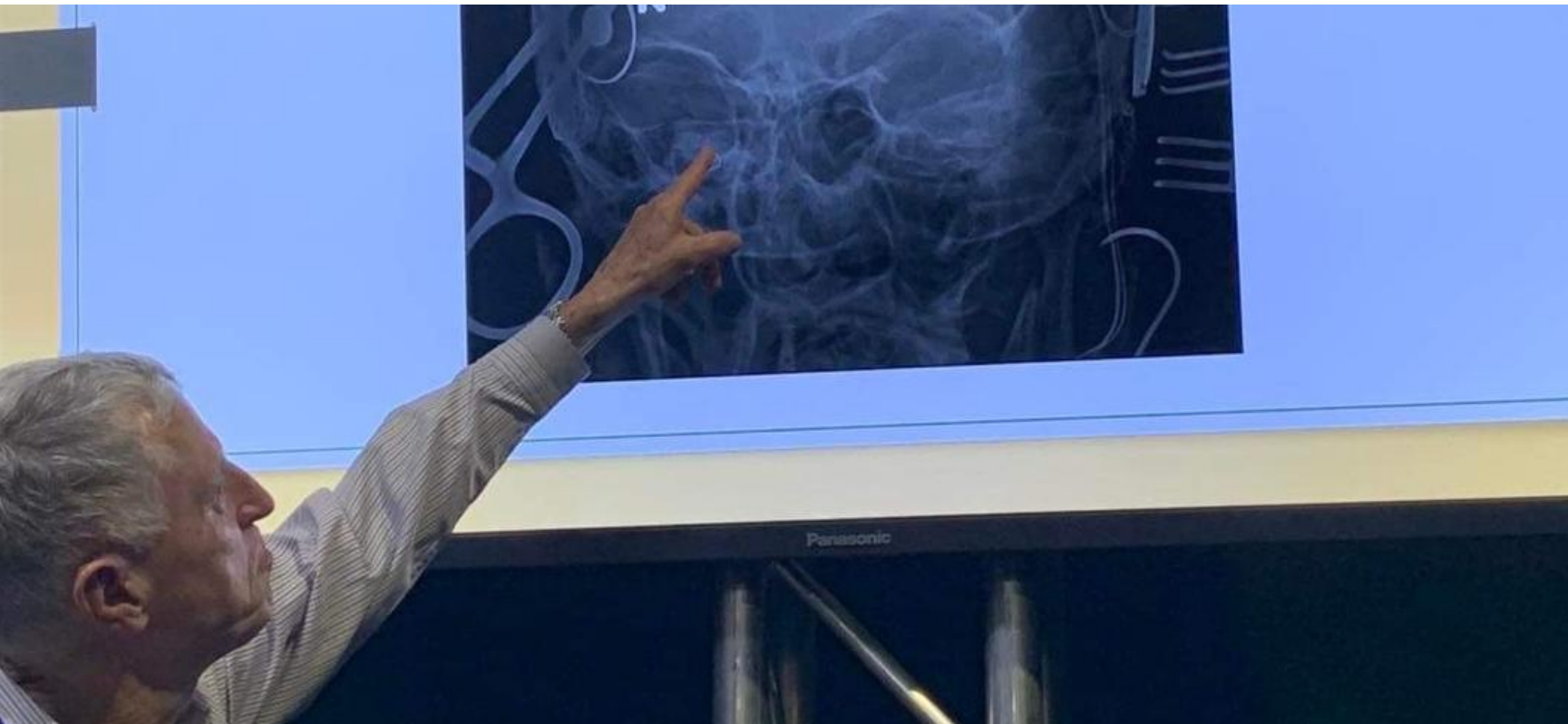
CAMPAIGNS

Consumers are
stakeholders and
valuable advocates
in lobbying MP's

NETWORKS

Consumer Training
develops essential
skills for effective
advocacy

STORYTELLING





THANK YOU



The thing about hearing loss is that no one can see it. Most people are so impatient; they just assume that the person with hearing loss is being rude or slow-witted.

- Marion Ross