

WHERE SCIENCE MEETS EXPERIENCE

The Science in My Life: Living
Well with Cochlear Implants
Requires More Than Surgery

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Personal Journey with Cochlear Implants

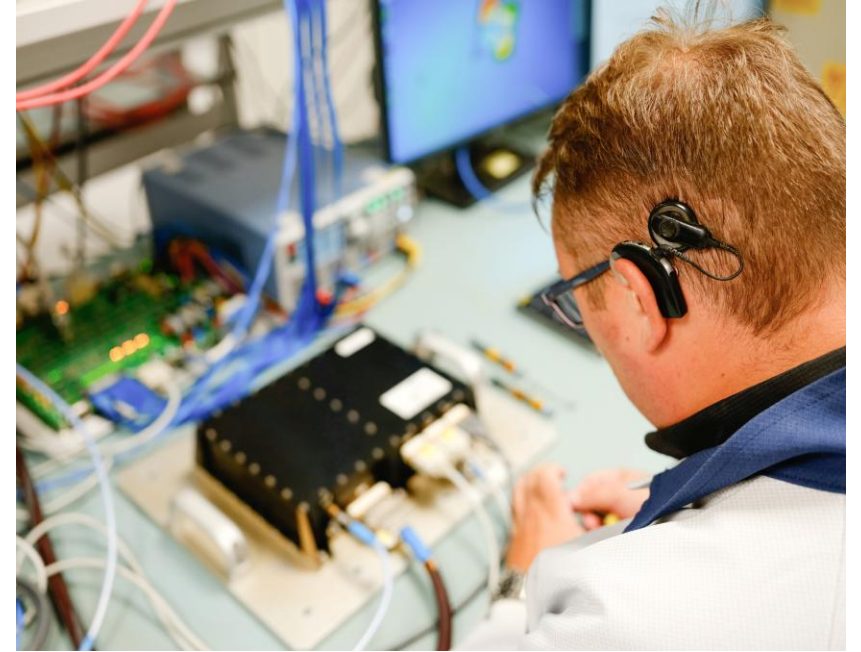
My CI Journey A Personal Introduction

- 1984 - Born in Wetzlar, Germany
- 1987 - Lost of hearing after contracting bacterial meningitis
- 1988 - Receive a Cochlear Implant as first children in Germany and Europe by Dr Ernst Lehnhardt
- 1990 to 2000 - Attend a regular school
- 2000 to 2004 - Apprenticeship as a communications electronics technician



My CI Journey A Personal Introduction

- 2005 to 2008 – Bachelor of Engineering in Microsystems Engineering and Electronics
- 2007 - second CI implantation in Frankfurt a.M.
- 2009 – Moving to Austria
- Since 2009 – Systems Engineer in a space company
- 2011 to 2013 – Master of Science in Innovation- and Technology Management



My CI Journey A Personal Introduction

- In Germany: Activities in CIV-HRM and founding CI-Youth Group-Mittelhessen
- Since 2019: Volunteer for Cochlear
- Since 2020: Active member of ÖCIG
- Since 2023: President of ÖCIG
- 2023-2025: Vice President of EURO-CIU
- Since 2024: Advisor for Lehnhardt Foundation
- Since 2025: President of EURO-CIU



Technology and Lifelong Support

Technical & Ongoing Support



Regular re-mapping
sessions



Device maintenance and
updates



Quick, reliable service is
essential

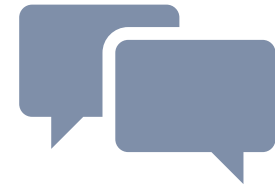
School, Work, and Communication



Captioning and assistive
devices in school



Understanding and
accommodation at work



Communication barriers
still exist

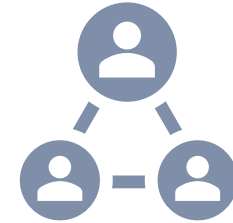
Emotional and Social Support



Feelings of isolation in
noisy environments



Support groups and CI
communities



The power of shared
experiences

Lifelong Needs at Different Stages

Support
changes
with age

Children: speech development

Adults: careers and relationships

Elderly: cognitive issues and device
management

The Importance of Peer Contact and Advocacy

The Power of Peer Contact

- Recognition & support
- Practical tips & lived experience
- Confidence & belonging



Advocacy Across Europe

- 24 countries in EURO-CIU
- Every country → own culture & style
- Shared mission: support & empowerment



What Real Support Means to Me



More than technical help



Feeling heard and included



Support must grow with us

Closing Reflections

Closing Message

Lifelong Support Importance

Successful cochlear implant use requires ongoing support, peer contact, and advocacy beyond surgery.

Synergy of Science and Experience

Combining scientific advancements with lived experiences drives innovation in cochlear implant care and inclusion.

Empowerment through Collaboration

Collaboration and peer networks empower users, fostering resilience and continuous learning.



Contact



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