**CI2018 DC Emerging Issues Symposium**

*A Robust Scientific Program, Special Events and Advocacy—Don’t miss it!*

Omni Shoreham, Washington, DC / March 7–10, 2018

www.CI2018DC.org

**John Niparko Memorial Lecture**

We are delighted to announce that this year’s John Niparko Lecture will be given by William G. Kronenberger PhD. The topic of his lecture is “Executive Functioning and Language Development in Children with Cochlear Implants.”

Dr. Kronenberger is Professor and Director of the Section of Psychology and Executive Vice Chair of the Department of Psychiatry at Indiana University School of Medicine. He serves as Chief of the Pediatric Psychology Testing Clinic and Co-Chief of the ADHD Clinic at Riley Hospital for Children. Dr. Kronenberger has been an investigator on multiple projects addressing neurocognitive, psychosocial, and spoken language development in children with hearing loss and cochlear implants or hearing aids. He is the author of several tests on these topics.

**Four Emerging Issues**

Four topics were determined to be pressing issues with regard to access to CI care. These issues have not been explored in depth at other CI meetings. In several instances, we hope that these discussions will help us to determine some appropriate activities and actions going forward. Each issue discussion will begin with presentations by topic experts, followed by a 20 to 30 minute interactive panel with audience participation and Q&A.
**Parental Engagement has a key impact on Pediatric CI Outcomes.** Parents and the home routines they create play central roles in a child’s development. Research in pediatric CI outcomes has identified specific ways in which significant caregivers can promote acquisition and growth in spoken language and literacy skills in children with hearing loss. This research also highlights the effectiveness of providing parents and caregivers with specific knowledge and strategies that can be woven into family life to support their child’s communication and literacy development.

**Practice Management** is one of the most significant issues facing the cochlear implant field today. With approximately 120,000 US CI recipients, clinics must determine how they will continue to serve those who received CIs in the past, along with meeting the demand for new patients, given small increases or even the same number of audiologists in most clinics. CI programs are grappling with innovative strategies and assessing whether and how these techniques affect the quality of care. This session will involve representatives of industry to help assess new industry provided care tools.

**Quality of life associated with cochlear implantation** is the subject of a major study sponsored by ACI Alliance which seeks to measure and quantify the effects of deafness on adults (i.e., physical, emotional) to fill this gap and improve patient counseling. The conference session will explore the topic across the age spectrum. This topic also impacts health care insurance coverage, which continues to restrict access.

When cochlear implants were first introduced, candidacy determination was a straightforward process: patients were expected to have bilateral profound deafness and demonstrate no benefit from hearing aids, which often meant 0% speech recognition. As technology has improved, candidacy has expanded to include patients with greater amounts of residual hearing and greater speech recognition skills. **CI Candidacy in 2018** will review recent changes, including the use of contemporary measures to evaluate traditional candidates, medical/surgical considerations when determining CI candidacy, the role that age and cognition play in candidacy considerations, and expansion of candidacy to include patients with SSD and asymmetric hearing losses.

**Podium and Poster Presentations**

Those who submitted abstracts to give a podium or poster presentation have received notifications. We were very pleased with the number of high quality abstracts submitted. The abstracts are being organized into sections of like topics and will be published soon. Poster submitters can find details about poster preparation and showing times here on the CI2018 DC website: [http://www.ci2018dc.org/site/index.php/scientific-program/presenter-resources](http://www.ci2018dc.org/site/index.php/scientific-program/presenter-resources). The successful poster highlights session that we introduced in San Francisco will be included again on Thursday at 3:40–4:10 PM. This is a chance to hear brief highlights from poster presenters just prior to the poster session on Thursday at 4:10-5:30 PM. We have extended the availability of posters for viewing until Friday at 3:00 PM to provide sufficient time for attendees to access this important conference resource.
**Student Poster Competition**
A new conference feature is a poster competition for student and resident attendees. The poster submission site has been left open for those who wish to participate. The deadline to submit is December 31. A winner and two honorable mentions will be selected and announced on Friday morning, March 9. The winner will receive a $100 cash prize. Winner and honorable mention recipients will be announced in ACI Alliance Calling and provided with a student membership. [http://www.ci2018dc.org/site/index.php/scientific-program/abstract-submission](http://www.ci2018dc.org/site/index.php/scientific-program/abstract-submission)

**CI Companies Share Technology**
CI2018 DC offers important opportunities to interact with our partners, the three CI companies, about their technology and service offerings. Sessions will be held on Wednesday afternoon beginning at 1:00 PM prior to the official conference start and each morning at breakfast symposia at 7:30 AM. CEU credits will be offered. To register for a CI company event: [https://www.acialliance.org/event/2018industrysymposia](https://www.acialliance.org/event/2018industrysymposia)

**Best Parties Ever**
The Thursday Reception following the poster presentations is always a favorite way to reconnect with friends and also visit the exhibit hall. This year’s reception starting on Thursday from 5:30-7:00 PM will be no exception. You won’t want to miss the opening party where you can enjoy a glass of wine and some light food, visit exhibits and posters, and chat with colleagues and friends.
**Movie Premiere**

A second opportunity to mingle and learn in a very fun setting will occur on Friday at 5:00–6:30 PM when we premiere the new documentary, *The Listening Project*. The film and champagne reception will be held immediately following the close of conference sessions. *The Listening Project* features interviews with 12 young adults who were born deaf and diagnosed late given the timeframe (prior to newborn hearing screening). Filmmakers Jane Madell and Irene Brodsky have beautifully captured the opportunity afforded by hearing aids, cochlear implants and auditory therapy for children born deaf. This powerful film will be shown first at our conference and followed by a panel discussion with several of those featured in the film as well as the filmmakers. The event is free for registered CI2018 DC attendees. Other interested individuals may attend (space permitting). Refreshments will be served and CART captioning will be provided (and throughout the conference). For more information, [http://www.acialliance.org/page/TheListeningProject](http://www.acialliance.org/page/TheListeningProject)

**Continuing Education**

American Cochlear Implant Alliance is an approved continuing education provider for the American Academy of Audiology (AAA), American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) and the AG Bell Academy for Listening and Spoken Language. We will offer up to 20 Continuing Education contact hours during the CI2018 DC Emerging Issue Conference. 13.5 hours of Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits will be offered through our meeting planners, the American College of Surgeons. A certificate of participation will be provided to all conference attendees. For information on continuing education at the conference, contact Susan Thomas (sthomas@acialliance.org).

**ACI Alliance on the Hill**

Our upcoming conference will be held at an ideal time for us to meet with Congressional Members and staff to familiarize them with the extraordinary benefits of cochlear implants as well as access concerns. *ACI Alliance on the Hill* will be held on Wednesday, March 7—the day before the CI2018 Symposium opens. (CI company pre-conference sessions will also be held on March 7 in the afternoon; participants in the Congressional visits will be unable to attend the Wednesday company events.) Due to the logistics of organizing an event like this, member participation is limited to 100 people.

ACI Alliance will organize the day for our members. We will schedule meetings with Congressional offices, group participants with others from their state, conduct training (both via teleconference two weeks prior and on-site that morning), develop materials and messaging, and provide transportation from the conference hotel to Capitol Hill. This will allow our members to focus on what they know best: the benefits of cochlear implants and what we need to do to ensure full access to care. Our focus this year will be on insurance and the continued availability of Medicaid for the entire continuum of CI care. A secondary issue may be the rollout of the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Act.

The day will begin with a training lunch at 11AM at the conference hotel (attendance is required to participate in the visits) and end at approximately 4:30 PM. The precise ending time will depend upon the assigned visits for each person. To apply to participate, please review the information and complete an application [https://www.acialliance.org/page/ACIAOnTheHill](https://www.acialliance.org/page/ACIAOnTheHill)