

Newsletter

Issue 36 | Summer 2015 | University of Southampton Auditory Implant Service

Celebrating 25 Years



There are special reasons to celebrate in 2015. With our service starting in 1990, we are marking our 25th year. We are also delighted to announce that this year marks our 1000th patient to receive a cochlear implant at USAIS.

The service has seen a lot of change over the years from a small team in the early days through to the comprehensive multidisciplinary team that exists today. We have seen much development in the field of cochlear implant research and technology. Additionally we have moved to new premises with specialised clinic and consultation rooms. Of course more recently in 2013 we changed the name of the service

from the South of England Cochlear Implant Centre (SOECIC) to the University of Southampton Auditory Implant Service (USAIS) to reflect the expansion of the services we provide to include other implantable devices such as Bone Anchored Hearing Aids (BAHA).

On 25th April we celebrated with a Caribbean party (see page 2 for more details). Director, Dr Carl Verschuur, said: "It was fantastic to celebrate the achievements of the centre together with the patients who have benefitted from cochlear implants over the past 25 years. We've witnessed some inspiring stories in that time that drive us on as we continue to research and develop new technologies and treatments in the field."

Celebrating 25 years





Caribbean patient party

Our annual patients' party was held at University of Southampton in the Hartley Suite on 25th April. There were special reasons to celebrate: 25 years of the service and our 1000th patient to receive a cochlear implant at the centre! The party was a Caribbean themed event. Over 200 patients and their families, along with past and present staff spent a colourful and fun-filled day which had been transformed into Caribbean 'paradise' with palm trees, parrots and balloons. Guests arrived dressed in bright colours and some wonderful costumes to add to the overall effect.

USAIS Director Carl Verschuur and Simon Cox (Associate Dean for Enterprise) conducted the celebratory speeches. Carl gave a brief history of the service through development in research and technology, staffing and buildings to the USAIS we know today.

Simon relayed the university pride in the Auditory Implant Service and expressed his admiration for the patients and families who attend the centre. He particularly enjoyed meeting patients and hearing their individual and inspirational stories throughout the day.

Along with time to meet up with old and new friends, there was plenty to entertain guests. All ages gathered to bop and sway to the tropical tones of the Steel Band performed skilfully by pupils of Kings' School in Winchester.

Many were fascinated to watch the overhead slide show of photographs from the service over time, many recognised past friends, colleagues and events.

The Caribbean theme continued with the lunchtime buffet: the brie and mango samosas were especially delicious!

Children's entertainer Crazy M enthralled and raised many a chuckle and cheer. By the end of the afternoon our younger guests had all met Carrots the rabbit and received a balloon hat or animal made especially for them. Staff members revealed hidden talents in face painting and crafts to add to the fun.

The 25 year celebration cake was created by Roberta Buhagiar (Audiologist). It comprised Caribbean sea and beach complete with references to our clinic rooms such as, Star Fish and Seahorse.

There was a bric-a-brac stall and raffle with numerous kindly donated prizes to round off the afternoon. We were proud to raise £330 for the USAIS charity of the year for 2015 – Alzheimer's Research UK.



Pictured (clockwise)

- 1 Nicola Timoney and Pauline Cobbold at Bric-a-brac stand
- 2 Mary Grasmeder, Dorothy Goodall, Sarie Cross and Julie Eyles
- 3 Sam Johnson and Katrina Faulds in their Caribbean outfits
- 4 Peter Williams and Emerita Chatfield
- 5 James Wooden and his dad
- 6 Arts and Crafts
- 7 Kings' School Steel Band
- 8 Children's Entertainer Crazy M

USAIS has nominated Charity of the Year 2015, Alzheimer's Research UK (ARUK)

ARUK's vision is a world where people are free from the fear, harm and heartbreak of dementia.

ARUK was established in 1997 and is now the UK's leading research charity aiming to defeat dementia. They power world class studies that give us the best chance of beating dementia sooner. In 2014 ARUK committed over £7 million to research and awarded over 60 grants.

Their pioneering work focuses on prevention, treatment and cure. They are energising a

movement across society to support, fund and take part in dementia research. They aim to empower people across all generations through greater understanding of dementia.

Please visit the USAIS fundraising page uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/AIS to donate.

Together we have the power to defeat dementia

For more information, advice, support and ways to help, please visit the ARUK website.



On 2 August 2015 one of our team members, Tamera Turchet (Teacher of the Deaf) & her partner Jo will be taking part in the Prudential Ride 100 London-Surrey to help raise money for ARUK. The bike ride starts in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, then follows a 100-mile route on closed roads through the capital and into Surrey's stunning countryside then back into London to finish on The Mall. Please visit Jo's fundraising page if you would like to support their ride, or drop your loose change into the collection box next time you visit us at USAIS

www.virginmoneygiving.com/JoYates

Update on ACE the hearing dog



Our charity of the year last year was Hearing Dogs for Deaf People and USAIS raised over £8000 to sponsor a new hearing dog puppy which we named 'Ace'.

Ace's trainers have updated us on his progress:

Ace settled in with us from the start and showed himself to be a friendly natured puppy both with adults and children.

When out, he interacts well with other dogs and although he will run up to them, his intention is always to play and he tempers this with the right amount of caution depending on the other dog's attitude.

He is quick to learn some of the necessary things that are required of him and we are working on the ones he is a bit slower on picking up. These are mainly due to a wish on his part to please. As an example, he will run through any of the commands you are not asking of him in the hope he hits on the right one!



With regard to puppy class, that is a different ball game altogether. He thinks that classes are purely a social gathering to play with whomever he can!

He travels well in the car and public transport and responds to attention from the public.

We feel that he will reach the required levels to progress as a hearing dog and will ultimately make a good partnership with any recipient.

Patient news



Hannah Millgate receiving her award

High Sheriff's Award

Seventeen year old Hannah Millgate, who lives on the Isle of Wight, received bilateral cochlear implants in August 2014. Over the previous year she had experienced several drops in her hearing. She was one of twelve young people who have been awarded the High Sheriff's Award for outstanding achievement this year. Each year the High Sheriff makes awards to recognise the achievements of young people who have overcome significant difficulties in their lives and then gone on to make a positive contribution to their own life, or the lives of others. It was in recognition that, despite the difficulties over the last couple of years, Hannah carried on with her education as best she could and achieved good grades in her GCSEs and AS levels.

Hannah Millgate



Tim Weston

Gold Duke of Edinburgh

A very proud mum accompanied Tim Weston to St James Palace on 26th November 2014, to receive his Gold Duke of Edinburgh award. Prince Philip himself came and talked to each group of young people, and then the certificates were presented by, in this case, John Sullivan, adventurer and explorer. John gave an interesting talk about his expedition to Papua New Guinea to meet a former Cannibal chief!

Tim, aged 21, who has a MED-EL cochlear implant, gained his bronze and silver awards, and started his gold, at Mary Hare. He finished the gold award whilst at University in Hull. He canoed down the river Thames from Lechlade to Teddington Lock for his expedition, and for his residential placement he camped in a village hall, and helped restore a canal lock with the Waterways Restoration Group.

My visit to UCL

Going to UCL was a fantastic experience for me last summer. Not only did I get the chance to experience the university first hand, but it also gave me the chance to make new friends with other deaf teenagers who are all going through the same thing in transition to university.

We all stayed 2 nights in our own rooms in resident halls on campus at the university. This gave us the opportunity to feel what it would be like to be away from home and be living on campus for university! The rooms were small but very cosy, complete with a wide desk and our own bathroom with a shower.

We were given lectures about university, one was from a deaf student at university who gave us an insight of what it's like as a deaf student. Other lectures were on student loans, and getting extra help and equipment that would support us during university. I found these lectures really useful and I have a greater understanding of what I'll be looking for when preparing for university. However, not all the lectures were based around us being deaf, we also had a lecture on UCAS applications and advice on the best way to go about our personal statements.

But, the whole trip wasn't full of lectures! On the first night we went to go to the top of The Shard. It was the most amazing view I've ever seen, seeing London lit up by street lights, car lights and buildings, and everything looked so small from so high up! Moreover, on the second night we went to a theatre performance of Billy Elliot with a British Sign Language interpreter.

The UCL trip gave me a great opportunity to make new friends who had a range of different devices, and we were able to share tips on how we cope in different environments, and the best part was: we could all lip read, which made our trips on the London Underground easier! Despite my small understanding of British Sign Language (BSL), I was still able to make friends with those who only signed, and this has encouraged me to take this further and I have taken evening courses at a college in BSL.

Amy Thomas



Making a splash!



Katie Taylor

Before I had the Aqua+ I couldn't hear what my coach or the other swimmers were saying, like my coach telling us to do 200m front crawl to improve our technique so I can get faster each time. Once two of the swimmers told me I had to swim another 200m so I set off but they were being mean to me as it wasn't true.

The first time I tried my Aqua+ it was amazing and I loved it. I could hear my coach and my friends even when I dived, I don't normally hear the coach say 'on your marks, get set, go!' Normally someone has to tap me to go which makes me slower as they have to hear it first before they pass it to me. I don't like having to go when someone says. The Aqua+ is absolutely brilliant and I love it.

At the beginning of April I went to the GBDeaf Swim Champs and although I wasn't allowed to wear the Aqua+ (which I wanted to) I still swam well and I won two bronze medals, one silver medal and one gold medal - I was so pleased with my gold.

Katie Taylor



Katie in action

Aqua+ Feedback

Martha Womack, aged 9, from Wiltshire said: "When I first used it, I was going swimming with my friend. When I got to the swimming pool and went into the water it was amazing to be able to hear in the swimming pool and talk to my friend.

When I go to Pencelli with my class for a residential trip I think it's going to be really good when we go canoeing so I don't get my processor wet.

I would give it 9 out of 10. It would be 10 if it weren't rustley on the microphones in the car on the way there but it wasn't in the water."

"Swimming has been so much better with the Aqua+ and I really love Katie being able to compete on a more equal footing."

Dawn Taylor

Swimming with Sound



After having a cochlear implant fitted, Matthew Johnston found out what swimming sounded like, for the first time in his life.

I have always swum in silence. Hearing aids are not waterproof and I have been profoundly deaf since birth. My swims are usually solitary. In the water, conversations with my fellow swimmers are limited to just a few words and without sound to guide me, I need to look up frequently to monitor my surroundings. Last week, all that changed. For the first time in more than 49 years, I swam with sound. I have always worn hearing aids but last year I was fitted with a cochlear implant. A cochlear implant is a surgically implanted electronic device whereby a wire is inserted inside the cochlea (the chamber in the ear that enables you to hear) that improves clarity of sound.

Not only does it mean I can hear better, but also the implant processor can go inside a waterproof case which is then strapped onto an arm band, or clipped to my goggle strap, and I can take it swimming with me.

To be able to hear for the first time whilst swimming is all at once confusing, exhilarating and wild! It is transforming my body's dialogue with the water and, although it will take time to adjust, as I become accustomed to every sound, it is a truly exciting time for me and I wanted to share my experience. So here's my account of putting this great new piece of swim kit to the test: in the pool; down a river; and out at sea...

To be able to hear for the first time whilst swimming is all at once confusing, exhilarating and wild.

In the pool

My first swim with sound was at a masters training session. My immediate impression was that it sounded like a waterfall; powerful, noisy and chaotic. I entered the water with trepidation, not knowing how I would react. I put my head in and began to swim. It was

surreal. Water gushed into the headpiece (which acts as a microphone) yet I could hear the rhythm of every single stroke as my arm came out and then slid back into the water. I became focused on ensuring each stroke was consistent and at a steady pace something I've previously had to do by feel, not by sound. I also had a heightened awareness of what was happening around me; the splash of every swimmer; the shouted instructions of our swim coaches; and I could sense when the swimmers in the adjacent lane were about to overtake me. The best bit was when we were doing kicking drills. The kicks echoed like drum beats, which slowed down after a few lengths. We were like the old Duracell bunnies in the advert and the drumming of the rabbits with weaker batteries slowed as their energy levels depleted. After a bit of trial and error with the arm-band, I felt more comfortable with clipping the waterproof device onto the goggle strap on the back of my head. It feels great. My swim buddies are pleased too – they can now swear at me to either swim faster or move out of their way – and I can no longer pretend to ignore them...

Down a river

My next swim was in the River Itchen in Winchester, with two regular swim buddies. It is a wonderful secluded place entirely surrounded by nature. Again, I entered the water gradually, making gentle splashes and listening to every ripple. The stillness was only broken by the momentary roar of a plane flying overhead. I became absorbed in picking up every sound around me and lost concentration on my swimming technique. The rotation of my arms in and out of the water was like poetry. One of my swim buddies asked me what I could hear. "You!", was my honest reply. It was so tranquil and every sound was distinct. I felt totally relaxed and safe knowing that I would be able to hear my buddies if they needed my attention and vice versa. The sun went down as we came out of the water. I was blissfully happy.

At sea

Finally, I joined a large group of regulars who gather at Fisherman's Walk in Bournemouth every Sunday. They are a lively bunch, so it was a good test of my ability to have



Matthew Johnston

conversations whilst swimming. It was a windy day and at first, all I could hear was the waves crashing on the beach. Then, as we entered the water, I could hear each wave as it lapped over my body. When I was up to my waist in water, I was startled by screams and shrieks of laughter.

What had happened? My swim buddy reassured me that it was normal – I had no idea that swimmers do that and decided to join the fun! The sea was so loud; a constant swirling noise like a washing machine. We swam from groyne to groyne, treading water at each end and it was great to be able to have clear conversations with my fellow swimmers and know what we were planning to do next, rather than guessing and following them blindly as before.

New adventures

As I said at the beginning, all in all, to be able to hear while swimming is confusing, exhilarating and wild. And I know it will feel better and better as I become accustomed to every sound. Will being able to hear improve my swimming? Perhaps not. But does sound enhance my swimming experience? Absolutely!

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CI, Radio Aid and Soundfield Systems Training Day in November 2014

Training

USAIS continues to run its well established and respected training programme for professionals with an interest in cochlear implants and other implantable devices. These courses teach staff to help them when supporting patients with cochlear implants. Some of these courses are now free to those supporting USAIS patients.

This year we have trialled holding our device troubleshooting workshops in different locations closer to professionals, in order to reduce their travel time and costs. We have 4 locality based training sessions running over the summer term. The feedback has been excellent so far and so we will continue to try to expand our courses locally.

In November 2014 we ran a 2 day course on CI, radio aids and soundfield systems which was a huge success. The event was over-subscribed, hence we are re-running the course in June, which is once again fully booked. One delegate said about the event - 'this was a really useful course with lots of

practical information and ideas to take back and inform and improve our practice'.

'Cochlear Implants - The Basics' is an ideal course for professionals with no prior knowledge of cochlear implants who would like to know how to support a child in a classroom setting. It will be running again in October 2015. This course is extremely popular and is of particular interest to Teachers and Learning Support Assistants, new Teachers of the Deaf or Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCOs).

Our programme of courses for the next academic year will be available in the near future so please keep an eye on our website for future dates or subscribe to our training E-newsletter by emailing ais@soton.ac.uk to keep yourself as up-to-date as possible on forthcoming events.

For any queries please feel free to contact our training programme coordinator Sue White on AIS.Training@soton.ac.uk.

Please remember our 1 day "Cochlear Implants - The Basics" course is open to anyone who wants to find out more about cochlear implants: grandparents, parents, childminders and other relatives. Keep an eye on our website for dates and booking information.

First Bone Anchored Hearing Aid (BAHA) Training Day at the Auditory Implant Service

The Auditory Implant Service in conjunction with representatives from Cochlear (BAHA manufacturer) put on its first Bone Anchored Hearing Aid (BAHA) training event 'BAHA - the basics' on Tuesday 28th April 2015. Delegates working in education settings with children using BAHAs were able to learn about the BAHA system, its uses and benefits. They were also able to meet staff from the Auditory Implant Service and discuss our BAHA service. The day was a success as shown by the following comments from delegates:

"Thank you very much for a very worthwhile day and good training environment."

"I came away feeling well informed and will be able to discuss options with parents."

"A very clearly presented course."



Cochlear UK

“It’s not just CrIcket”

A new workshop called ‘It’s not just CrIcket’ has been run twice this year for grandparents and others who support families in a similar role. The participants were invited to attend by the parents of our children with cochlear implants, not directly by us.

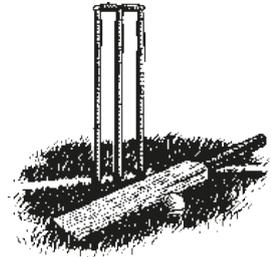
The workshops were run by a multi-disciplinary group of staff including an Audiologist, a Speech and Language Therapist and a Teacher of the Deaf. The morning focused on what it is like to be the grandparent of a child with a cochlear implant, and included speaking to a parent whose child has been implanted. The afternoon sessions were information based

and led by USAIS staff with expertise in each area. These included looking at cochlear implants and how they work, the stages of listening, speech and language development, and basic troubleshooting in small groups with a focus on the specific device their relative was using.

The staff thoroughly enjoyed both workshops and feel privileged to have worked with such committed and caring groups of people.

The participants also enjoyed the day and feedback from both workshops was extremely positive.

“Very helpful, fantastic day, most enjoyable and informative for us grandparents”



“It was very helpful talking to other grandparents who are in the same position as myself”

“My understanding and confidence has improved thanks to this day”

Teenagers, Telephones and Technology, Try it and Test IT day

We held another of our popular ‘Teenagers, Telephones and Technology day’ at USAIS on 28th March. Nine teenagers attended. The day started with a warm-up activity so that we could all get to know each other. Then the teens split into two groups, one group did some telephone use training first and the other explored technology. The telephone training was very successful. The teens enjoyed experimenting with different phones using the tone and volume controls. They also got a 1:1 phone session going through some telephone training stages followed by a phone conversation with a staff member. Many of the teens felt more confident on the phone having tried the different settings. All

of them had success with using the phone. The technology session also went well. A room loop had been set up for them to try out – this was a new experience for many of the teens. They also tried out personal audio cables and Bluetooth. One of our adult cochlear implant users, Vanessa Scott, kindly agreed to take part in the day. It was fantastic that Vanessa agreed to take part as she is such an inspiration! Vanessa is very experienced in using different technologies to help her hear as well as possible in different situations despite only having had her implant for a few months. She went on to lead the group session where the teens tried out Skype and Facetime and talked about

different apps that they use. Some of the apps that were suggested were new to the staff at USAIS so it was good for us to get some recommendations. We all enjoyed eating and chatting together. The pizza lunch was delicious. The overwhelming feedback from the day was how much the teens enjoyed meeting each other and trying things out. A comment from one of the teens expressed the feelings of so many: “It was nice to meet people who understand.” All of the teens said that they had fun and would recommend the event to a friend with a cochlear implant. We will run the event again so do come and join us for the next one!

Teenagers Day, March 2015



Research at the Auditory Implant Service

Here at USAIS, we are very committed to research in order to ultimately benefit you, our patients. Here is a sample of projects going on at the moment.

Having a cochlear implant when you're deaf from birth



Suzanne O'Gara

Clinical Scientist

S.O'Gara@southampton.ac.uk

This project looks at factors that could affect the outcomes of cochlear implantation in people with a hearing loss from birth. Results have shown that communication mode (speech or sign) and a history of progressive hearing loss affect performance after implantation. These results have been used to develop an information sheet for patients who are being assessed for a cochlear implant.

Remote follow-up of adult cochlear implant users



Helen Cullington

Clinical Scientist

and Research Coordinator

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Helen has received funding from the Health Foundation to start a project doing remote follow-up of adults using cochlear implants. This may mean that instead of coming to the centre, you would be able to test your hearing, make some adjustments to your map, get support and rehabilitation all at home – using a computer or smart phone. The aim is that this would make our service more centred on you – you would only come to USAIS when you needed to and could do a lot of your cochlear implant care and checks yourself at home. Let Helen know if you would like further information.

Outcomes for people with Auditory Neuropathy Spectrum Disorder (ANSD)

Kirsty Carey

Speech and Language Therapist

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Sue White

Clinical Scientist

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ANSD is a type of hearing loss where there is a problem transmitting sound from the inner ear to the brain. Around 1 in 10 people with a permanent hearing loss may have ANSD.

A group of 11 USAIS children with ANSD were compared with 11 children with no additional difficulties and 11 children with additional difficulties.

All three groups of children made progress on average in listening and speech production after one year of cochlear implant use. The children with ANSD made similar progress to the children with no known additional difficulties. However the group of children with ANSD started at a lower point on the assessment scales. The group of children with additional difficulties did not make as much progress as the other two groups.

This is a positive outcome for implanted ANSD patients. However we only had a very small number of children in this project. We therefore need to be careful when using this information to counsel individual patients and families about how they/their child might progress with an implant.

Your participation in research

You may sometimes receive research invitations; these will be on yellow paper so you can tell they are different from other letters from us. It is always your decision whether you take part or not; you are under no obligation at all. Whether you take part or not will not affect your usual treatment or your relationship with staff in any way.

Please feel free to throw the invitations in the recycling bin and ignore them. If you'd prefer not to receive invitations in future, please let us know by emailing ais@soton.ac.uk.

If you have any questions or comments about research, please get in touch with Helen Cullington.

Donations funding research

We are delighted to say that many of our patients, their families and friends helped raise money for our centre through sponsored walks, pub quizzes and many other things. We also often receive donations from patients and their families. Some of this money is used to improve our service (for example, play tools for children). The rest is used to fund research projects. USAIS has a committee to evaluate research applications to this fund; we aim to use these donations to support research projects to improve outcomes for you - our patients. The donations committee has now provided funding for five projects, including: how advanced fitting techniques could be introduced into fitting appointments for children at USAIS, the development and validation of a music-related quality of life measure for adult cochlear implant users, alternative post-operative care pathways for children, and studies into the relationship between hearing preservation and inflammation.



Technology Update

Sonnet Launch

We are excited to announce the release of the new behind the ear speech processor from MED-EL, called the SONNET! The Sonnet has a new external design and includes some new features such as microphone directionality, wind noise reduction and improved water resistance.

Sonnet Processor



Microphone directionality may provide benefit for some patients; this may be helpful in some noisy situations.

Wind noise reduction may make listening outdoors more comfortable by reducing continuous wind noise.

Improved water resistance makes the Sonnet processor splash proof.

We are currently running an 'upgrade trial' with the new Sonnet processors. In this trial some existing MED-EL patients who are due an upgrade to their processor have been given the opportunity to try the Sonnet.

New upgrade policy

Great news!

You may no longer need to wait until your 5th/10th or 15th year review until you get an upgrade to your processor. If you have had your processor(s) for more than 5 years AND there is a newer processor suitable for your implant you will be able to have an upgrade. Adult patients will no longer need to come for a routine annual review beyond five years after implantation. They will be sent a questionnaire annually to see how they are doing but they can still request an appointment at any stage should they feel that this is needed.

For more information please email AIS@soton.ac.uk or call us on 02380 59 3522.

Upgrade appointment



Reminders

MRI Scans

Are you aware you need to let us know if you/ your child is scheduled for an MRI scan? This applies whichever body part is being scanned.

Cochlear implant users need certain safety precautions to be taken before an MRI is carried out.

Consent for enquiries

If you are an adult who is happy for family members/friends to ring and make inquiries about various things on your behalf, please ensure that you have signed the necessary consent form. Otherwise the team cannot provide them with any information.

Changing microphone covers

If you have a Cochlear processor, an Advanced Bionics processor or a MED-EL (Sonnet only) processor remember to routinely change your microphone covers. This should be done every 3 months or as advised by your audiologist. You can get replacement microphone covers from the repairs service.

Request

Unused Equipment

Do you have any unused equipment at home that you do not need in the future? If so, please consider returning the equipment to USAIS at your next visit. This could be really helpful for other patients.

Allow extra time

Please allow extra time to get to your appointment at Southampton General Hospital. Major work is due to commence from June 2015 as they will be redeveloping the main entrance.

Visit www.uhs.nhs.uk for more information.

Staff Update



Hello from new team members

Hello, I am Coral Abraham, the Assistant Administrator for the USAIS. I began working at USAIS in December 2014 and my role is focused on communications, marketing and training. Prior to this, I studied an undergraduate degree in History and since graduating, have worked in various roles at the University of Southampton.



My name is Fiona Jones, some of you may perhaps remember me from before when I worked at SOECIC as it was then, first as Clinic Secretary and then as Patient Liaison Officer. For the past four years I have been working at the Spire Southampton Hospital as the Cardiac Administration Co-Ordinator. I re-joined the USAIS Admin Team at the end of January 2015 to take up my new role as Clinic Secretary, looking after the Auditory Processing Disorder Service, BAHA Service and Middle Ear Implant Service and also the Self-Funded Cochlear Implant Service.



My name is Daniel Moss. I am delighted to have been given the opportunity to work at USAIS, and look forward to meeting and greeting all of you; hopefully without causing confusion having a Dan and a Daniel on the same desk at reception! I am coming across from the Beaulieu National Motor Museum, where I may have been spotted driving the famous monorail!



My name is Dan Carter and I joined USAIS in October 2014 as part of the reception and administration team. I've been in Southampton for around two years now since moving here from Cornwall in order to work on a PhD.



Sad News

It is with great sadness we need to announce that Liz Wood lost her battle with cancer on 21 January 2015. Liz worked with us as a Teacher of the Deaf and Educational Audiologist for over 11 years until her retirement in 2009. Many families from the West will remember her. She made a significant contribution to the department with her work on radio aids and with the FM working party. She is much missed as a colleague and as a friend.

Important: If you change your GP for any reason it is essential that you let us know your new GP's details immediately please. If the GP on our records is not the GP that you are currently registered with we may not be able to send you any spares or arrange to see you. Thank you.

Goodbyes



Some of you would have met Srikanth Chundu who was an Audiologist within the West Team. Srikanth worked at USAIS for 4 years and he has now relocated to another part of the country to be with his family. Shree is now lecturing at Anglia Ruskin University.

Maternity News

Caroline Gamble

Caroline went on maternity leave in February 2015 and we would like to congratulate her on the arrival of her baby boy.

Nicola Timoney

Best wishes to Nicola as she goes on maternity leave at the beginning of August.

Louise Lee

We would like to congratulate Louise on the birth of her baby girl in December 2014.

Congratulations

Sarah Paganga

We would like to congratulate Sarah who celebrated her 20th year working at the USAIS on 1st April 2015. Well done Sarah!



Contact us

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Do you have good news stories or events for our next Newsletter?

Please contact Coral and Nikki at: ais@southampton.ac.uk