Becky Osborne

My Path to Hearing
My Hearing Loss:

• Spinal Meningitis at age 18 months (January 1961)
• Profound Sensorineural Hearing Loss at 18 months
• Sudden Sensorineural Hearing Loss at age 30
• I grew up in a hearing world with no special accommodations
• My husband & daughters knew nothing different
Hearing Aids & Other Tricks

- Received my 1st Hearing Aid at 9 years of age
- Received Speech Therapy and Lipreading Instruction from Miami University’s Speech & Hearing Department
- Caption Box for television at 8-10 years of age
- FM System at 26 years of age
- TTY/TDD & amplified telephones at 30 years of age
- Cochlear Implant at 35 years of age
- Years of Age: 9, 8-10, 26, 30, 35, 55
My “Aha” Moment:

When my audiologist said:

“There’s nothing more we can do for you. Call this number: 475-8400. You’re going to love Dr. Samy.”
Surgery

• July 23, 2015 at UC West Chester. Performed was performed by Dr. Samy
• No problems or complications; spent one night in hospital.
• Pain the first night was caused primarily by pressure of bandage.
• Don’t overdo your first meal – or you may see it again!
I received the Nucleus Six
Accessories: My Favorite Part!

Before surgery I picked four accessories:

• Phone Clip
• Mini Mic
• Remote Assistant
• Additional Rechargeable Battery (regular size)

Accessories are packed in a black briefcase which you receive at the time of surgery.
Phone Clip

Once you turn it on, you will have:

- Hands-free capability on your phone
- Exceptionally clear sound right into your head
- And a BONUS: you will hear a beep whenever a text comes in!
Mini Mic

Excellent in restaurants and at home!
• Set it on the sugar packets holder to minimize the reverberation.
• Set it next to your TV if you don’t have a TV streamer

(I learned these and many other great tips from the CI Support Group)
Remote Assistant

Allows you to control many things on your processor such as:

• Program
• Volume
• Sensitivity
• Mini-Mic on/off

Be sure to use the cool rubbery case provided!
Helpful Hints:

• Put an address label on the back of your accessories in case you lose them.

• Put a label on the charging cables so that you can easily identify which accessory it charges.
My Programs (on the Remote)

• **Scan:** My normal program
• **Home:** Honestly, I don’t use this
• **Café:** Wonderful! Great for talking with one person who is facing you.
• **Groups:** Great for talking to more than one person facing you.
Additional Rechargeable Battery

• One comes with your processor
• An extra one ensures you always have a charged battery.
Regular Batteries

• Great for traveling!
• Take your used batteries to one of the following locations to recycle your batteries free of charge:
  • Best Buy®
  • The Home Depot®
  • Radio Shack®
  • Batteries Plus®
Dryer

- Yes, use it every night
- Don’t forget to pack it when you travel.
- Comes with your processor – you do not have to pick it as an accessory.
Activation & After

• August 13, 2015
• There was a sound delay
• Everyone sounded the same
  • Minnie Mouse –or- Martians
• Xylophone noises lasted five weeks
• Crickets & Cicadas – so loud!
• My speech changed
• Learning the right way to say words I’ve been mispronouncing.
“Practice!”

- Angel Sounds
- Books on tape or audio books on phone
- Radio
- Practice can be any activity where you focus on interpreting the sound you hear.
CI Support Group *(that’s us!)*

- This is the single best thing you can do to help yourself make the most of your CI.

- **Buddy Program:** Find someone here that you connect with and use them to answer your questions and show you how to do things.
How has my life changed now that I have a superpower?

• Conversations are now so pleasurable!
• I have directional hearing again.
• I can converse from anywhere
• Confidence has soared
• Insecurity has plummeted
• Yoga is no longer a struggle
• I’ve gained the ability to lead a group...(next slide)
As President of the Mason Kiwanis Club, I am able to:

- Lead an organization of 70 people
- Run a weekly meeting of 35 people
- Conduct a monthly board meeting of 15 people
- Understand what is being said at a convention of hundreds of people.

Dr. Samy was one of the first speakers of my term.
Questions?