Meet Dr. Meyer

Ted A. Meyer, M.D., Ph.D. joined the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery at MUSC in 2004. He was named the director of the MUSC Cochlear Implant Program. Dr. Meyer grew up in St. Louis, MO, and graduated from Washington University where he majored in mathematics and was captain of the tennis team. In 1995, he graduated from the Medical Scholars Program with a medical degree and a doctorate degree from the University of Illinois College of Medicine. His doctorate degree was from the Department of Speech & Hearing Science.

Dr. Meyer went on to complete a residency in Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery at Indiana University, followed by a fellowship in Otology-Neurotology at the University of Iowa, then joined the faculty at MUSC. Dr. Meyer has limited his practice to the evaluation and treatment of hearing and balance disorders in adults and children. Examples of his specialty areas include hearing loss, cochlear implants, ear infections, tympanic membrane perforations, cholesteatoma, otosclerosis, vertigo, Meniere’s disease, facial paralysis, congenital ear malformations, acoustic neuromas, glomus tumors and other skull base lesions. As director of the MUSC Cochlear Implant Program, Dr. Meyer oversees all clinical and research protocols involving patients with cochlear implants.
AG Bell Parent: Infant Financial Aid Awards Distributed

The AG Bell Parent-Infant Financial Aid Committee awarded a total of $118,849.96 to 140 families who are committed to a listening and spoken language outcome for their infants and toddlers who are deaf and hard of hearing. Awards ranged from $600 to $1,200. Award recipients reside in 31 U.S. States and Canada. Bailey Anderson, a 2 year old from Murrells Inlet, SC, received one of these awards. She was unilaterally implanted by Dr. Meyer at age 11 months. She continues to use a hearing in the contralateral ear.

CI Surgeries Dramatically Improve Athlete’s Quality of Life

Helen Keller once said that “Blindness separates us from things, but deafness separates us from people.” She couldn’t be more right.

I have had a bit of a bumpy road throughout my life, health wise. I was not given much hope of surviving after birth due to a number of complications, one of which was hydrocephalus. I am now 45 years old, and to date, have had 31 surgeries (including two cochlear implant surgeries). I started to lose my hearing in the left ear in my mid 20’s. After five surgeries, the hearing in my left ear dropped down to a profound level. The last surgery wiped out all of the residual hearing in that ear. Around November of 2010, the hearing in my right ear dropped to a profound level. My first CI surgery was in April of 2011 and my second was in June 2012. The Cochlear Implants have dramatically changed my quality of life as before the surgery I could hear nothing. This obviously was an issue for work and family life as my life revolves around communication. This left me feeling very isolated. Getting the CIs has opened up a whole new world.

The addition of the second CI was even better in that everything sounded so much fuller, richer and crisper. They have not prevented me from doing anything that I enjoy doing. Over the years I have earned a black belt in Taekwondo, a black belt in Tang Soo Do and a purple belt in Haidong Gumdo. I have also run a number of ultramarathons the shortest of which was 70 miles. My last race this past February was a 24 hour trail race. I ran the full 24 hours with the CI processors on and had no issues. At one point, I was running with my brother in law who was pacing me. I commented that the battery on my iPod just died. The next thing I hear is, “you can listen to an iPod!?!?!” He got a lesson in ALD’s (assistive listening devices) and direct connect cables. My experience with the CI’s has been better than I could have possibly asked or imagined. If you are a candidate for cochlear implantation but are on the fence about moving forward with it, I would say go for it. I know you won’t regret the decision.

Teacher of the Year Embraces Gift of Hearing

My first encounter with hearing loss was at the age of 21. As I grew older my hearing steadily declined. It worsened to a point where I was unable to fully understand my students. My decision to receive my cochlear implants was the result of a hearing test, which indicated my severe hearing loss.

As I reflect on the 2 years since my bilateral cochlear implants, many things come to mind. One thing that I can recall is the ability to hear more clearly. Before getting implanted everyone’s voice was the same tone, but now I can tell the difference between my husband’s voice compared to another male voice. I can close my eyes and distinguish between each one of my daughters’ voices. Another exciting factor is all the new sounds I am hearing again but took for granted before. Lastly, the ability to hear has restored my confidence specifically in social situations. That confidence resulted in me achieving my personal goal of becoming Teacher of the Year for Joseph R. Pye Elementary School. Having the ability to hear, is the most magnificent gift I have ever received.
CI Equipment Troubleshooting

You have a number of resources available when equipment is not functioning properly. Typically, it will be faster and more efficient if you contact the company directly, instead of your audiologist. Often times a call or email to the audiologist will not be received until the end of the day. However, your cochlear implant company’s Customer Service Department is readily available to assist you with troubleshooting and/or exchange/repair requests. Always call Customer Service first! Below you will find the important contact information for each company.

1. Remember to always maintain your back up system so you have spare parts that are functioning and readily available for use.
2. Swap out components of your device (one at a time) until you can determine what is malfunctioning.
4. Consult the company website for online troubleshooting assistance.
5. Call the company and ask to speak with the “audiologist on call”.
6. If you complete steps 1-5 and still cannot troubleshoot your device, call your MUSC cochlear implant audiologist for assistance.

**COCHLEAR AMERICAS CORPORATION:**
Website: http://products.cochlearamericas.com/support/nucleus
Email: Maggie Burns at mburns@cochlear.com
General Customer Service at Customer@Cochlear.com
Telephone: 1-800-483-3123

**ADVANCED BIONICS CORPORATION:**
Email: Raquel Black at Raquel.Black@advancedbionics.com
General Customer Service at CustomerService@AdvancedBionics.com
Telephone: 1-800-829-0026
TTY: 1-800-678-3575

**MED-EL CORPORATION:**
Email: Nick Stoner at nick.stoner@medel.com
Telephone: 1-888-633-3524

**MUSC CI PROGRAM:**
Email: Meredith Holcomb at holcombm@musc.edu
Liz Camposeo at camposeo@musc.edu
Telephone: 1-843-876-1308

**MUSC Cochlear Implant Program**
MUSC offers comprehensive cochlear implant services for children and adults, including auditory-verbal training through its Cochlear Implant Center, directed by Dr. Ted Meyer. All patients — especially children — referred for a cochlear implant are seen in a multidisciplinary setting. After a complete audiological evaluation, each patient has a complete medical evaluation and CAT scan or an MRI scan to determine whether he or she is an appropriate candidate. Cochlear implants are recommended for patients who received limited benefit from appropriately fitted hearing aids, and those patients who have severe to profound bilateral sensorineural hearing loss.

Ted A. Meyer, M.D., Ph.D.
Director, Cochlear Implant Program

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Watch us grow!

CI Implants at MUSC
Camp Communication: “Breaking the Sound Barrier”
July 14 - 18, 2014

Camp Communication just completed its 16th year providing a day camp for children with hearing loss. The program held at the Second Presbyterian Church in downtown Charleston, is a week-long summer camp designed to serve hearing impaired children between the ages of 4-12. This year we hosted a record number of campers – a total of 31 kids!

Camp Communication provides communication and language stimulation in a fun and interactive environment that fosters social interaction and self esteem among peers. Campers use spoken language and/or sign language to communicate during camp. Camp provides camaraderie among children representing a unique group of kids who all have “high tech” ears. This summer’s theme was “Breaking the Sound Barrier” with an outer space motif used during camp. Throughout the day all crafts, stories, games, language, and science learning activities were in some way related to outer space. The children enjoyed a field trip to the U.S.S. Yorktown, a naval aircraft carrier at Patriots Point where they were able to tour fighter planes, submarines and compare how aircraft carriers and spaceships are alike and different. A lot of FUN was had at our “Breaking the Sound Barrier” camp. A huge thank you for the generous donation from the Mt. Pleasant Sertoma Club to support the camp.

For more information about the MUSC Camp Communication, email Nevitte Morris at swink@musc.edu

The Communication Connection: Living with Hearing Loss

The MUSC Audiology Division hosted this community seminar March 8, 2013 at our East Cooper facility. Attendees learned about the latest trends in hearing research, hearing aids and implantable devices and assistive listening devices as well as causes and treatments of tinnitus. Three of our patients, a hearing aid wearer, an osseointegrated (bone conduction) device user and a cochlear implant user each shared their experiences from the diagnosis of hearing loss to the use of their hearing devices and assistive technology. Participants took the opportunity to have their specific concerns addressed and questions answered by audiologists, otologist and/or experienced hearing technology users during a lively panel discussion at the conclusion of this meeting. One participant wrote “This was a wonderful seminar. Very informative and well presented. I enjoyed it...very helpful staff.”
Paul R. Lambert, M.D.
Professor and Chairman
Director, Otology-Neurotology
M.D.: Duke University
Residency: UCLA Medical Center
Fellowship: House Ear Institute, Los Angeles
Special interests: Adult and pediatric hearing loss, middle ear infections and cholesteatoma, acoustic tumors, cochlear implants

Ted A. Meyer, M.D., Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Director, Cochlear Implant Program
M.D.: University of Illinois
Ph.D.: University of Illinois
Residency: Indiana University
Fellowship: University of Iowa
Special interests: Adult and pediatric hearing loss, middle ear infections and cholesteatoma, acoustic tumors, cochlear implants

David R. White, M.D.
Associate Professor
Director, Pediatric Otolaryngology
Director, MUSC Airway and Aspiration Center for Children
M.D.: Medical University of South Carolina
Residency: University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Fellowship: Cincinnati Children’s Hospital
Special interests: Pediatric otolaryngology, airway reconstruction, pediatric otology, velopharyngeal insufficiency, cleft palate repair, pediatric sinus and allergy, pediatric neck masses

Kimberly A. Orr, Au.D., CCC-A
Director, Audiology
M.A.: Ohio State University
Special interests: Identification hearing impaired infants and children; Habilitation and management of hearing impaired infants and children

Elizabeth L. Camposeo, Au.D., CCC-A
Instructor
Au.D.: Northwestern University
Special interests: Pediatric and adult cochlear implants

Meredith Holcomb, Au.D., CCC-A
Instructor
Coordinator CI program
AuD: University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Special interests: Identification, assessment, and habilitation of hearing impaired infants and children; cochlear implants.

Nevitte Swink Morris, M.S.P., CCC-SLP, Cert. AVT
Speech-Language Pathologist, Certified Auditory-Verbal Therapist
M.S.: University of SC
Special interests: Pediatric and adult hearing loss

What our patients are saying...

“Yesterday at church I heard the Chaplain’s words for the first time and could follow the sermon.”

“Ever since the implant in my left ear the communication with my family has improved...I rarely ask to repeat what was being said.”

“I heard the pitter-patter of rain drops for the first time yesterday. I guess I hadn’t been outside since the CI activation when it rained. I was carrying an umbrella and I was hearing this strange noise and didn’t realize it was the sound of the rain drops on my umbrella until I stepped inside and out of the rain.”

“In reflecting on 2012 I obviously cannot overlook my implant and the fabulous help I received from you and the MUSC team. I will be forever grateful.”

“With the first implant, I was able to hear again. With the second implant, I was able to return to civilization.”

“I expected the cochlear implant to sound very bad in the beginning. I was pleasantly surprised when it was turned on and it sounded much fuller than my hearing aid.”

“We are so proud of her progress and know that starts with good mappings and greatly appreciate your help.”
Coming
August 1!

The MUSC Cochlear Implant services will be available in our North Charleston clinic starting August 1, 2014.

It’s no secret that MUSC offers an unparalleled level of expertise in hearing health services for patients of all ages!

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Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery

Downtown Charleston Office
135 Rutledge Avenue, MSC 550
Rutledge Tower
Charleston, SC 29425-0550

Hollings Cancer Center
86 Jonathan Lucas Street
3rd Floor, Cooper Pavilion
Charleston, SC 29425

MUSC Health East Cooper
1600 Midtown Avenue
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

MUSC Health North Charleston
8992 University Place - 2nd floor
North Charleston, SC 29406

— Appointment Scheduling —
Otolaryngology .......... (843) 792-3531
Rutledge Tower, East Cooper, North Charleston, West Ashley
Audiology .................... (843) 792-3531
Evelyn Trammell Institute for Voice & Swallowing ........... (843) 792-3531
Hollings Cancer Center
Head & Neck Clinic ........... (843) 792-9300

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MUSC Cochlear Implant Program

Department of Otolaryngology
Head & Neck Surgery
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