

## **Carl Verschuur**

Hello! I'm Professor Carl Verschuur, and I'm the Director of the University of Southampton Auditory Implant Service. I would really like to welcome you to our centre, and hope that you will find some really useful stuff here that might help you decide if coming here is the right thing for you.

I'm an audiologist, which means I'm an expert in hearing. I've been working here at the University for just about seventeen years. During that time our centre has grown to quite a large outfit. We have provided cochlear implants for over a thousand people, and we have over twenty-five years of experience doing this.

You might be thinking about whether you want a cochlear implant, or whether you think it's right for you or somebody in your family, and whether you'd like to take the next step in terms of getting referred to us and being assessed. I would really like to encourage you to have a look at some of the videos that we have. I think they'll be really helpful. I'd also like to emphasise that if you do come here and are assessed for a cochlear implant, we are very focussed on the needs of different individuals, and we recognise that everyone is different.

We're really all about trying to make sure we make the right decision for you. We discuss it with you, and we help you come to the decision as well as to whether a cochlear implant might be right for you.

We also have some videos that might help you with the broader themes around cochlear implantation, and that's because everyone's experience is different. No one person has the same background in terms of their hearing loss, and no one person has the same experience of a cochlear implant. But I hope there will be something that will be useful to you, because we've looked at a quite a different variety of people's experience, and we've also covered some of the bigger, broader themes related to cochlear implants.

I think the last thing to say is really that when you are assessed here, if you do decide to be referred here, we definitely treat everyone as an individual. We reflect the fact that everyone has a different experience. Certainly our patients have said how useful it has been to come here, whether or not they've ended up with a cochlear implant, they've found out more about it, and they've been more fully informed about what to do next.

So if you do have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us. We're really happy to discuss anything with you before you come here or indeed if you do decide it's the right next step for you.

If you do, I look forward to seeing you here.