

Santa Fe Science Café for Young Thinkers

“Bionic Hearing: The Science and the Experience”



Ian Shipsey
Oxford University, England

Thursday, January 23
6:00-7:30 PM

Georgia O’Keeffe Museum
Education Annex
123 Grant Avenue, Santa Fe

Cochlear implants are the first devices to successfully restore neural function. They have instigated a popular but controversial revolution in the treatment of deafness, and they serve as a model for research in neuroscience and biomedical engineering. We will discuss the physiology of natural hearing as well as how cochlear implants function. We’ll do this in the context of historical treatments, electrical engineering, human neural response, clinical evaluations and my own personal experience. The social implications of cochlear implantation and the future outlook for auditory prostheses will also be discussed.

Admission is Free. Youth (ages 13-19) seating a priority. Light refreshments will be served.

Ian is a particle physicist and a Professor of Physics at Oxford University. He has been profoundly deaf since 1989. In 2002 he heard the voice of his daughter for the first time, and his wife's voice for the first time in thirteen years, thanks to a cochlear implant.

Sponsors: Santa Fe Alliance for Science; Santa Fe Public Schools; Georgia O’Keeffe Museum; Santa Fe Institute. Call 603-7468 for more information.