



Ursula Soffner

Profile:

She has a hearing loss right and a single side deafness left since birth and actually she wears cochlea implants visible, left since the end 2002 and right since 2014. She works for more than 26 years professional as a physiotherapist in a rehabilitation clinic for neurologic, geriatry and otopharynxlarynx. Since the begin of 2022 she is working as physiotherapist for 30 hours / week and as audioterapist for 10 hours / week in the clinic named „MediClin Bosenberg Kliniken“ in the little town Sankt Wendel, in the south west of Germany, in the corner to France and Luxemburg.

She is vice president of the „Deutscher Schwerhörigenbund e.V. (DSB)“, a big German association for people with hard of hearing and hearing loss and in the future with others members responsible for a new and big united society for people with hard of hearing, hearing loss and medical deafness, an association of Deutscher Schwerhörigenbund and Deutsche Cochlea Implant Gesellschaft.

Title:

My life as a person with electric 'artificial' ears in Germany

Abstract:

She talks about her life since her birth until today in the federal republic of Germany and about the interventions and school educations she faced as a baby, child, teen and young adult with hearing aids and later with cochlea implants. The social system, par example the German health insurance with the medical care was and is important for her as adult in the time with cochlea implants. But more important than the health insurance is the DSB, the German association for different auditive disabilities with their offers for self-help and counselling with peers. DSB members are experts because of their consternation with hard of hearing, hearing loss or medical deafness. Without DSB she could have lost her integration and inclusion in a normal society in Germany, private and professional.