The Cochlear Implant Research Laboratory at the Vanderbilt Bill Wilkerson Center is currently conducting a research project with cochlear implant recipients who are 4 to 17 years. The purpose of this study is to determine whether a new form of implant mapping can improve your child’s speech understanding and the ability to resolve the different pitches of the incoming speech sound. The research project will require your child to 1) listen to words and sentences in quiet and in noise and repeat the sentences, 2) listen to different noise-like sounds and make judgments about those sounds, and 3) fill out a questionnaire asking questions about how your child feels. In addition, we will ask that the primary caregiver (mother, father, grandparent, etc.) also fill out a similar questionnaire about how you believe your child feels.

All sounds will be presented through loudspeakers at levels typically encountered in everyday communication environments. Your child’s participation would involve two visits. Each visit would involve approximately 60 to 90 minutes of listening/testing. Monetary compensation will be provided in the form of a check mailed to you after your child completes the second visit. You will be paid $50 for each visit.

Please understand that participation is voluntary. Your current and future medical care at Vanderbilt University Medical Center will not be affected by whether or not you participate. Specifically, your care will not be jeopardized if you choose not to participate.

Please contact Dr. Linsey Sunderhaus at linsey.sunderhaus@vanderbilt.edu for more information or to express your willingness to participate.

Sincerely,

René H. Gifford, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Vanderbilt University
Director, Cochlear Implant Program
Associate Director, Pediatric Audiology

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