## **Rinri Therapeutics -***Pioneering regenerative cell therapy*

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## Agenda

- Who are we?
- A cell therapy for hearing loss Rincell-1
- The Rincell-1 trial
- Integrating the voice of people with lived experience of hearing loss
- Next steps





## How we started









#### Who are we







UNITED KINGDOM · CHINA · MALAYSIA

**NHS** Guy's and St Thomas'

**NHS Foundation Trust** 

UPPSALA UNIVERSITET

NIHR Nottingham Biomedical Research Centre

## A cell-therapy for hearing loss: Rincell-1

- Otic Neuron Progenitors Specialised cells that are capable of maturing into auditory neurons
- Restores the auditory neurons that connect the inner ear to the brain

Cell therapy uses living cells to replace or regenerate damaged tissues, or to enhance the body's natural ability to heal itself.



### **The Rincell-1 trial**

First-in-human blinded randomised control trial to assess the safety of Rincell-1 otic neuron progenitor therapy in addition to standard care, compared with standard care alone in severe-to-profound deaf participants with presbycusis, or auditory neuropathy.



## **The Rincell-1 Trial**

\***\***.

Why?

- Safety
- Effectiveness



#### Who?

- 1. Presbycusis (Age-related hearing loss)
- 2. Auditory Neuropathy

#### When?

• Rincell-1 + Cochlear implant



- 9 months
- Longer Yearly follow up



## **The Rincell-1 Trial**

How will we measure success?

The cochlear implant has the unique ability to take measurements from the inner ear.
✓Assess inner ear health (e.g. inflammation)
✓Assess number of auditory neurons

2

MRI scans can produce detailed images of brain structure to assess safety



Patient-reported outcome measures provide the subjective views of patients on tolerability and effectiveness





+++ Many other clinical tests

Integrating the patient voice

Research carried out 'with' or 'by' members of the public rather than 'to', 'about' or 'for' them".



#### Focus groups

- Deep dive into the experiences of people with lived experience of hearing loss
- Direct feedback to protocol design

#### Surveys

- Extensive geographical and demographic reach
- Quick answers to research questions

#### Events/ Social Media

- Direct engagement with members of the public
- Opportunities to learn more and share thoughts

#### Participant Advisory Group

- Involved throughout the trial
- Direct influence over decision making

## **Integrating the patient voice**



# **Next Steps**





### **Next steps**

- Continue working with people with lived experience of hearing loss
- Obtain final Ethical Approval
- Deliver the first-in-human trial
- Explore future applications

" I would actually be very open to it. Not only for my own benefit. But for future benefits from it and it's something quite exciting." *CW, CI User* 





# Thank you!

# Questions?

Interested in being involved?

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Rinri Website

# **Participants**

Adults aged 60 years or over with <u>presbycusis</u> who are eligible for unilateral cochlear implantation as recommended by UK NICE criteria

- 46% loss of auditory neurons at 60 years old, and 69% loss at 90 years old
- >60-year-olds have 60% greater loss of auditory nerve fibers than younger people
- Age-related loss of auditory nerve fibers is
   2.6 times steeper than loss of hair cells





Wu et al 2019

# **Participants**

Adults aged 18 years or older with <u>Auditory</u> <u>Neuropathy</u> who are eligible for unilateral cochlear implantation as recommended by UK NICE criteria

- Less common
- Poor speech perception
- Near-normal pure-tone audiogram
- Normal otoacoustic emissions
- Abnormal or absent Auditory Brainstem Responses





Rance and Starr 2015



# **Objective Measures of Safety and Efficacy**

Participants will use their CIs to perform daily measurements of cochlear health to assess safety and efficacy of the treatment.



The feasibility of this approach has been verified in our clinical development work with existing and newly implanted CI users.





## **Patient Pathway**



#### Secondary Outcomes

- eCAPs (spiral ganglion cell survival and function)
- eABRs (auditory nerve function)
- PTAs/ECochGs (residual hearing)



#### **Tertiary Outcomes**

- Comfort and Threshold levels
- Speech perception testing
- Patient reported quality of life assessments



#### Timepoints

- 9-month Follow-Up
- Regular Safety Monitoring Visits
- Audiological Assessments: 1, 3, 6, 9 months
- Long Term Follow Up to 10 Years



