

# Audiology HealthCare News

A newsletter for our patients, their families and friends

Spring 2015

## TELLYHealth™

TellyHealth is an NIH-sponsored study designed to help new hearing aid users become accustomed to their hearing aids faster. A device is connected to your TV and informational videos can be watched with instructions on use, care and trouble shooting of your hearing aids.

### MORE PEOPLE CAN PARTICIPATE!

**There are openings in a new NIH-funded study for new or current hearing aid users age 55 and over. Participants will receive additional education about hearing aid use and maintenance through their TV sets.**

**Purpose of study:** To determine the feasibility of a new educational system that works on your home TV like a DVD player and only requires you to use the remote control. It provides educational videos and asks you to answer questions about your hearing aid use, maintenance, and satisfaction.

**Confidentiality:** All information that is collected about you in this study will remain confidential.

**Requirements:** To be a candidate for this study, you must be:

- Age 55 or over
- Fluent in English (reading and speaking)
- Receiving your first/new hearing aid(s)
- Having difficulty using and maintaining hearing aid(s)
- Own and can use a TV and a telephone
- Have Internet service in your house or apartment (but you do NOT need to use or have knowledge of computers)

**Duration:** 6 weeks from the time you receive hearing aids and/or enroll in the study.

**Possible benefits:** Improve your knowledge and understanding of hearing aid use and maintenance.

**Stipend:** Participants who complete all the requirements of this 6-week study will receive a **\$50 stipend** to compensate them for their time and travel.

## What's New?

Meet Jillian Schmidt, our new doctoral student. Jill attends Towson University and is completing her 3rd and 4th years with Audiology Unlimited and College Park Hearing Services. She began with us in January 2015 and is scheduled to graduate with her Doctor of Audiology in May 2016. Her undergraduate degree is from Bloomsburg University in Pennsylvania.



### From the Better Hearing Institute:

Technology and consumer electronics are transforming people's lives, adding ease and enjoyment to daily living. The same is true for hearing aid technology.

In the past few years, research and development have enabled a technological transformation in the hearing aid marketplace. These advances in hearing aids are making a significant difference in the lives of millions.

Today's state-of-the-art hearing aids are highly effective, sleek, and sophisticated wearable electronics that can help people stay actively connected to life and to those they love.

Many of today's hearing aids allow users to hear from all directions, in all sorts of sound environments, and even underwater. They are digital, wireless, can connect directly to your smartphone or television, and can be as discreet or as visible as you like. Whether they sit discreetly inside the ear canal, or wrap aesthetically around the contour of the outer ear like the latest fashion accessory, today's high-performance hearing aids amplify life.

Below are six little-known facts about today's modern hearing aids:

1. They're virtually invisible. Many of today's hearing aids sit discreetly and comfortably inside your ear canal, providing both natural sound quality, and discreet and easy use.
2. They automatically adjust to all kinds of soundscapes. Whether you're after the ability to discern comments at an all-staff meeting, easy conversation in a crowded restaurant, or the chirp of crickets on a late summer's evening, recent technological advances have made hearing aids far more versatile than ever before—and in a broad range of sound environments.
3. There is something for just about everyone. Today's hearing aid options are amazingly varied. Designers offer styles for the fashion conscious, the trendsetter, the partygoer, the intellectual, the active sports enthusiast, the cautious grandmother, the romantic, the weekend warrior, and even the guy just tired of turning up the volume on the TV.
4. Water, sweat, and dust are no problem while wearing them. Waterproof, digital hearing aids have arrived. This new feature is built into some newly designed hearing aids for those concerned about water, humidity, and dust. This feature suits people who work in demanding environments, as well as those with active lifestyles—like swimmers, skiers, and sports enthusiasts.
5. They love smartphones, computers, and other prized electronics. Wireless, digital hearing aids are now the norm. That means seamless connectivity—from smartphones, MP3 players, computers, FM systems, televisions, and other beloved high-tech gadgets—directly into your hearing aid(s), at volumes just right for you.
6. They're always at the ready. A new rechargeable feature on some newly designed hearing aids allows you to recharge your hearing aids every night, so they're ready, ramped up, and waiting for you in the morning. There's no more fumbling with small batteries. Just place the hearing aids into the charger at night, and in the morning, they're ready to go.

## Hearing Aid Styles versus Function

At Audiology Unlimited and College Park Hearing Services, we work with several manufacturers in order to give our patients a variety of hearing aids from which to choose. The styles of hearing aids are relatively uniform across manufacturers:

**Behind-the-ear, Receiver-in-the-canal, In-the-ear, In-the-canal, Completely-in-the-canal and Invisible-in-the-canal.**

In our practice, hearing aids are separated by level of sophistication and price.

- Premium—Like “little computers in your ears”. Premium hearing aids are designed to change per environment. The sounds that hit the microphone are categorized and modified by type of sound. Premium hearing aids can be fully automatic or can be adjusted by the patient, depending upon preference.
- Advanced—Similar to the premium hearing aids, but the noise suppression is not as strong and the hearing aids are not as variable. Not as many situations are covered as automatic programs, but can be added as accessory programs.
- Standard—Based on the same computer chip as the premium and advanced, but with less automatic function. Think of the Standard hearing aids as “stripped down” models of the more sophisticated hearing aids.
- Basic—These hearing aids are still digital and programmable, but are not as automatic, if automatic at all. A button may have to be pushed to change from one program to another. The noise suppression is not as strong. And, the control that the audiologist has over the programming is diminished.

The audiologists at Audiology Unlimited and College Park Hearing Services work to provide the best services for each patient, individually. If the first choice of hearing aid does not work out, it can be exchanged during the trial period for a different price level or style.

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**Please keep in mind that we are new at this newsletter stuff. Consider it a “work in progress”. Hope you find it informative.**

**Sincerely,**



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**Refer a Friend and Get Free Batteries!**

