

Hearing Matters

Spring 2008

Middle TN Ear, Nose & Throat

What's NEW with hearing aids?

Over the last few years, hearing instruments have really advanced. From open-ear fittings and less feedback to blue tooth compatibility and instruments that talk to one another, hearing instruments are making leaps and bounds! Today behind-the-ear hearing instruments are small, sleek, and depending on your hearing loss, may be possible to keep your ears open so that you no longer have that plugged up feeling of being in a barrel. Depending on the severity of your hearing loss, you may need more or less of an earmold to ensure that you are hearing to the best of your ability.

Hearing instruments are also able to work better in noisy situations and enhance the speech signal in a more natural way. Some hearing instruments are even compatible with blue tooth technology and mp3 players so that you are hearing through your hearing aids and not having to take them out. As technology improves, so do hearing instruments.

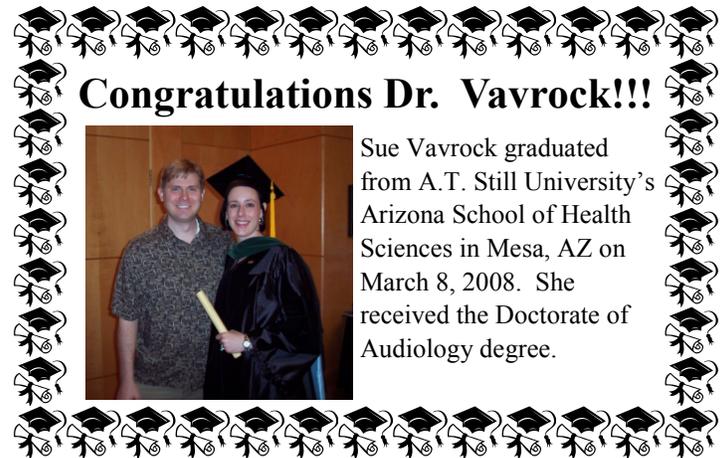
If you are interested in learning more about the newest technology, please call our office to set up an appointment to discuss your needs and which hearing instruments are best for you.

Welcome our newest audiologist...



Vicki L. Ford, M.A., CCC-A

We are delighted to welcome Vicki Ford as our newest audiologist. Vicki is a graduate of UT, Knoxville, with over 12 years of experience in audiology. She enjoys hiking, reading, and spending time with her husband and their cat.



Congratulations Dr. Vavrock!!!

Sue Vavrock graduated from A.T. Still University's Arizona School of Health Sciences in Mesa, AZ on March 8, 2008. She received the Doctorate of Audiology degree.

Doctor of Audiology

The profession of audiology and its scope of practice have expanded enormously in the past decade. The demand on university and/or college training programs to keep pace with the expanding scope of practice has led the transition of audiology to a doctoring profession. Current master's programs are either closing down or are in the process of converting to residential, post-baccalaureate, four-year doctoral programs. This has created a need for master's level audiologists to further their education by becoming a Doctor of Audiology. Master's level audiologists with a specified number of years in the field are qualified to obtain the Doctor of Audiology degree via transitional programs. This means that these audiologists can continue to practice audiology while earning their degree through an online Doctoral program.

This change to a professional doctorate is consistent with other health care professions which require doctoral degrees to practice in their respective professions, such as: Doctor of Osteopathy (DO), Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM), Doctor of Medicine (MD), Doctor of Dentistry (DMD or DDS), Doctor of Optometry (OD), and Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD). The Au.D. is certainly a positive step not only for audiologists but for their patients as well.

503 E Bell St, Ste 312
Murfreesboro, TN 37130

Inside this issue...

New Hearing Aid Technology
Doctor of Audiology
Congratulations!
Welcome our new audiologist!

Murfreesboro
503 E Bell St, Ste 312
615.848.9265

**Call today for an
appointment**

Smyrna
300 StoneCrest Blvd, Ste 375
615.223.9913

*Helping you hear better
because your hearing matters.*

Walk-In Hours

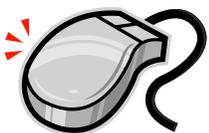
Thursday 1:30pm-4pm

What is a Walk-In? A Walk-In is a time set aside for hearing aid users to come by our Murfreesboro Office for cleanings and basic hearing aid repairs such as tubing changes and battery door replacements. No appointment is needed for this first-come first-serve opportunity!

Just walk in!

Better Hearing & Speech Month

May is Better Hearing and Speech Month. If you haven't had your hearing tested in the last year, now is the time to call and schedule an appointment. It is recommended that if you have hearing loss, you have your hearing checked annually. It is also important to monitor your hearing sensitivity and communication needs so that your hearing instrument(s) can be updated to meet those needs.



For more information, visit our website at
www.hearingmatters.org