May is “Better Hearing Month”

For over 75 years, May has been designated as Better Hearing and Speech Month -- a time to raise public awareness, knowledge, and understanding of the various forms of communication difficulties, including hearing loss, speech, language, and voice problems. Communication difficulties affect everyone in our society regardless of age, gender, or economic status.

Helen Keller once noted that of all her impairments, she was troubled most by her lack of hearing. She stated that while blindness separated her from things, her lack of hearing separated her from people. This is the human connection of communication.

Audiologists are the professionals concerned with the prevention, identification, and treatment of hearing loss. Audiologists test hearing, prescribe hearing devices and assistive listening devices, and teach people with hearing difficulties how to make the most of the sounds they hear. Audiologists also test people who have dizziness and balance problems since these can also be related to inner ear function. At HES, all of our audiologists have their clinical doctorate in audiology in order to best serve our patient’s needs.

About 34 million Americans (11% of the population) have hearing loss. The number of Americans with hearing loss has doubled over the past 30 years as younger people experience hearing loss due to noise exposure and as Baby Boomers age. The good news about hearing devices is that users report satisfaction ratings exceeding 90% and technology gets better every year. You may not need hearing devices yet, but understanding your current hearing levels is a great starting point.

During May, we encourage you to help us spread the word about Better Hearing Month. Think about bringing a friend or family member in to have their hearing checked. For most people, the last time their hearing was checked was in grade school so they are probably long overdue for a hearing check. Getting baseline results even before there are difficulties is advisable so that we can determine if results are stable or changing over time. Hearing tests are covered by most insurances so make your appointment today!
At HES we pride ourselves on making sure that we offer the most current, cutting edge, and effective hearing devices available. As new products become available, we feel it is important to pass that information on to you so that you can take advantage of any new advances that may help you improve your hearing. The newest product from Oticon builds on the last two generations of devices (Epoq and Agil) to continue to improve hearing, especially in noisy places. Sometimes, the only way to know if something is better is to try it. With that in mind, we are offering a demo of the new Alta Pro. So if you are ready to hear better, consider trying the Alta Pro. We are offering this complimentary demo for the month of May so call our office to schedule today!

### NEW Oticon Alta

Never before has hearing technology been designed to better help empower you to understand more with less effort in a way that is most natural and appealing to each individual listener. Experience it for yourself with a complimentary demo.

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<th>Feature</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>Achieve better speech understanding in difficult situations.</td>
<td><strong>Speech Guard E</strong> makes it easier for you to pin-point voices, select which speaker you want to listen to and to engage in conversation.</td>
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<td><strong>Spatial Sound Premium</strong></td>
<td>helps you organize sounds to create an awareness of the world around you and prioritize the sounds you wish to focus on, including speech.</td>
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<td>Focus your hearing on what is important with directionality.</td>
<td>Alta features five different focus <strong>modes</strong>, which ensure that you have the best possible speech understanding with the least effort required.</td>
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<td>Oticon’s advanced <strong>feedback shield</strong></td>
<td>gives freedom from whistling and artificial sounds. The feedback shield efficiently prevents howling, even in difficult situations, without compromising the sound quality or level of sound.</td>
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<td>The intelligent mechanical design</td>
<td>features several seals to prevent water, dust and debris from getting inside. And all key components are <strong>nano-coated</strong> to repel water and moisture.</td>
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Eat, Drink, and Hear Better!

Eat well, hear better? Maybe according to a study from Vanderbilt University and University of Sydney. Research found that antioxidants may reduce the prevalence of age-related hearing loss by as much as 47%.

The study showed that the highest intake of vitamin A was associated with a 47% reduction in risk with vitamin E intake associated with a 14% reduction in risk.

So remember, what you eat is one of the few risk factors you can control to prevent age-related hearing loss.

Resveratrol, a compound in red wine, can help protect against hearing loss. Resveratrol, which has antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties, has already been found to help treat other disorders including heart disease, Alzheimer’s disease, cancer and diabetes. The moderate intake of red wine (at least one drink per week) has been found to provide a protective affect for hearing in a research study conducted at the University of Antwerp in Belgium. However, excessive consumption, like with most things, can actually lead to the opposite effect and cause at least a temporary mild hearing loss. So enjoy your drink...in moderation.

HES Audiology Resident Carolyn Whitcomb Presents at National Conference in California

Many of you may have met our Audiology Resident, Carolyn Whitcomb. Carolyn is just finishing up her doctorate at the University at Buffalo and has been seeing patients on a full-time basis for the last 9-months. Carolyn specializes in testing people with dizziness and balance problems and has been conducting clinical research at the Dent Neurologic Institute Dizziness and Balance Center. Her research focused on developing an objective clinical technique for the diagnosis of migraine associate vertigo and chronic subjective dizziness.

Her study titled "The Clinical Utility of Rotational Chair Testing in the Diagnosis of Migraine Associated Vertigo and Chronic Subjective Dizziness" was one of five student presentations selected for the American Academy of Audiology's 2013 Student Research Forum Awards. Carolyn was also recognized at the recent Academy's AudiologyNOW conference held in Anaheim, California and had the opportunity to present her research during a special event at the conference. Her study will also be published in "Audiology Today", the official Academy publication in the coming months. We are so proud of Carolyn’s success and know that she will continue to achieve great things.

HES will continue to benefit from Carolyn’s expertise as we are proud to announce that she will be staying on with us after graduation in May. Carolyn’s skills in both dizziness testing and hearing aid fitting and troubleshooting will be a great asset to our patients.
On April 12th, the University at Buffalo Student Audiology Association (SAA) held their second annual Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser to support the Dr. Ann Stadelmaier Hearing Aid Fund. Students coordinated community raffle basket donations for everything from wine, gardening supplies, dog swimming certificates, restaurant certificates, and much more. HES’s own Dr. Rebecca Wantuck’s mother donated a beautiful hand-made quilt that was raffled off as well.

The money donated to the fund by the SAA will help us continue to serve those with hearing loss who could not otherwise afford amplification. We are grateful to the students at the University for their dedication to their future profession and helping members of our community enjoy better hearing, which allows them to participate more fully in activities.

We are always accepting donations to the fund at any of our three locations. All donations are tax deductible so think about us next time your are thinking of making a charitable donation.

If you do not wish to receive our newsletter, please call our office.