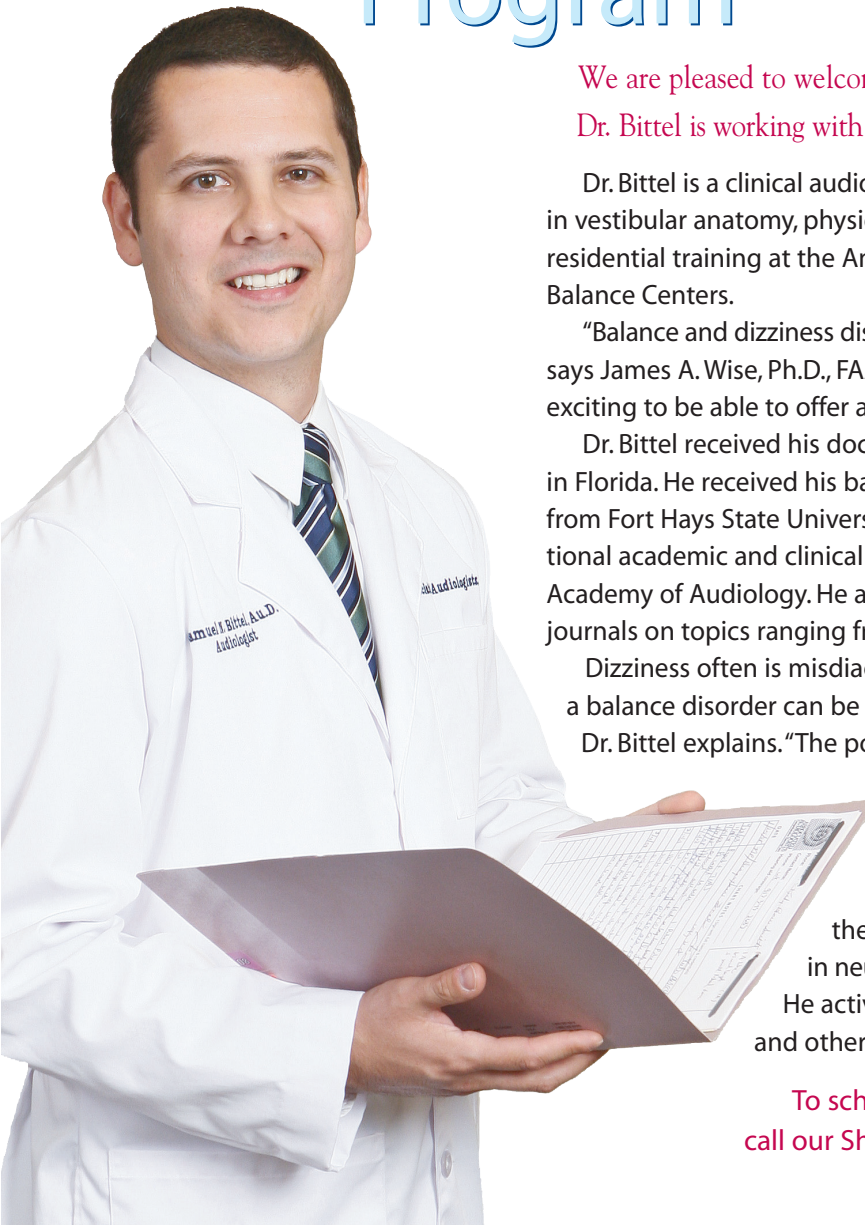
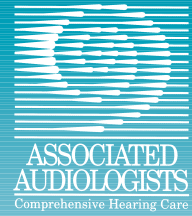


Practice Establishes Dizziness and Balance Program



We are pleased to welcome Samuel N. Bittel, Au.D., FAAA, to the practice. Dr. Bittel is working with our patients who have dizziness and balance disorders.

Dr. Bittel is a clinical audiologist with licenses in Kansas and Florida. He specialized in vestibular anatomy, physiology, diagnostics and treatment during his two-year residential training at the American Institute of Balance and the National Balance Centers.

“Balance and dizziness disorders are very common, especially among older adults,” says James A. Wise, Ph.D., FAAA, president of Associated Audiologists. “It is very exciting to be able to offer a program in this area of specialty to our patients.”

Dr. Bittel received his doctorate in audiology from Nova Southeastern University in Florida. He received his bachelor of science in psychology and his bachelor of arts from Fort Hays State University. Dr. Bittel has earned a number of awards for exceptional academic and clinical achievement from his doctoral program and the Florida Academy of Audiology. He also has been published in a number of peer-reviewed journals on topics ranging from hearing conservation to vestibular diagnostics.

Dizziness often is misdiagnosed and difficult for patients to describe. “Having a balance disorder can be a frightening and frustrating experience for patients,” Dr. Bittel explains. “The potential impact of a fall or being off balance can be

devastating. It is important that we properly diagnose and treat this problem. It affects nearly 5 million people each year.”

Dr. Bittel and his wife, Brennen, recently moved to the Kansas City area, where she is a resident physician in neurology at the University of Kansas Medical Center. He actively volunteers in Americorps, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and other community service organizations.

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Bittel, call our Shawnee Mission office, 913-403-0018.

Special Holiday Drawing! ▶

As our gift to our patients at this holiday time, we will hold a drawing in each of our offices for a \$100 gift certificate to the Town Center Plaza!

To register, fill out the form to the right and send it to the office you usually visit. We will have a drawing on Friday, Dec. 19, 2008 at each office. If you are one of the winners, we will call to notify you that you have won and will send your gift certificate in the mail.

Holiday Prize Drawing



Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail address _____

Associated Audiologists may/may not (circle one) publish my name as a winner of this drawing in a subsequent patient communication.

Signature _____

Are you living with dizziness or balance problems?



Approximately one-third of those between 65 to 75 years of age report that dizziness and imbalance affect the quality of their lives. With modern medical advancements, much can be done to help. In fact, 90 percent of the time these disorders can be successfully treated with proper diagnosis. If you are experiencing dizziness or imbalance, you may not need to “learn to live with it.”

Imbalance and dizziness facts:

- In the U.S., falls are the leading cause of injury-related death and injury for people 65 and older (*National Safety Council*).
- In 2005, nearly 16,000 older adults in the U.S. died from falls; 1.8 million were treated in emergency departments; and 433,000 were hospitalized (*Center for Disease Control*).
- National Institutes of Health (NIH) statistics indicate that balance-related falls cause nearly half of accidental deaths in the population over 65.
- Each year, more than five million people consult with their doctors with complaints of dizziness (*Vestibular Disorders Association*).
- Dizziness is the number one malady for people older than 70 (*Vestibular Disorders Association*).

The consequences of dizziness and imbalance are serious.

Don't ignore the problem. Call to learn more.

913-403-0018

Have you ever experienced...

- Vertigo or dizziness?
- A feeling of motion or spinning with quick head movement?
- A feeling of motion or spinning when changing positions?
- A sense of unsteadiness or a fear of falling?
- Difficulty maneuvering in the dark?
- Your feet not going where you want them to?
- Discomfort looking at moving objects?
- Frequent falls?

If you answered “**Yes**” to any of the above questions, you may have an equilibrium disorder.

Good News:

90 percent of equilibrium disorders can be successfully treated once they have been accurately diagnosed.

**IF YOU HAVE DIZZINESS, VERTIGO, IMBALANCE, OR A HISTORY OR FEAR OF FALLING,
YOU MAY BENEFIT FROM A COMPREHENSIVE EQUILIBRIUM EVALUATION.**

Samuel Bittel, Au.D., FAAA, our dizziness and balance audiologist,
is seeing patients at our new Shawnee Mission Medical Center office.

**To schedule an appointment with Dr. Bittel ask your physician
for a referral or call 913-403-0018.**

www.hearingyourbest.com