

HEARING

YOUR BEST



Information From Associated Audiologists, Inc. – “Hearing Your Best for Life”

Spring 2008

Associated Audiologists Helps Olathe Optometrist Improve Quality of Life

As a busy optometrist in Olathe, it's important that Jeff Weltmer, O.D., be able to communicate effectively with his patients and staff.

Dr. Weltmer scheduled an appointment to see Tim Steele, Ph.D., C.C.C.-A., Associated Audiologists' vice president, to find out what could be done to treat his hearing loss. "I already knew I had a hearing loss," he said. "Several years ago, I was fit by another practice with two in-the-canal hearing aids. They just weren't comfortable. I felt like I had a wad of gum in my ears, so I didn't wear them. Instead, I got by the best I could without them, until recently."

After he performed a diagnostic evaluation, Dr. Steele recommended two Widex Inteo micro open-fit behind-the-ear hearing aids for Dr. Weltmer. "This new technology is great. I wear my hearing aids for everything I do – at work, social gatherings, concerts and at home," Dr. Weltmer said. "They're very comfortable and practically invisible."

The Olathe resident said he also wears his hearing aids when he's outside enjoying his favorite pastimes,

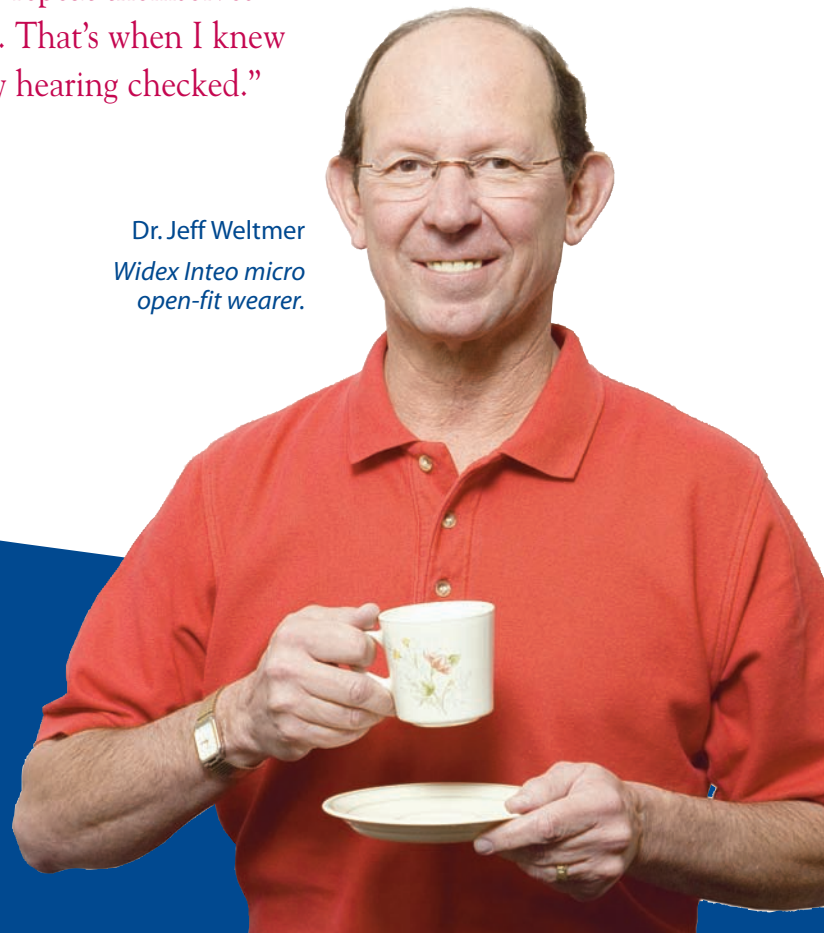
"I would compare my hearing aids to glasses – once you have them and you know how wonderful it is to see clearly, you never want to give them up. I feel the same way about my new hearing aids – I can't imagine what I would do without them now."

gardening and golf. "Even though it can get very windy in our backyard, these hearing aids help reduce that noise." He adds that he hasn't had any problems talking on the phone either, a common concern for many hearing aid wearers.

But the biggest benefit to his new hearing aids is the improvement Dr. Weltmer has seen in his relationships with everyone from his patients, to his wife, Jana, to his grandchildren. "I can hear everything my patients say, young and old. And my staff say they don't have to repeat themselves constantly," Dr. Weltmer said.

"I thought I was having more and more trouble hearing the higher pitched voices of my young female patients," Dr. Weltmer said. "Then my staff pointed out that they had to repeat themselves over and over again. That's when I knew I needed to have my hearing checked."

Dr. Jeff Weltmer
Widex Inteo micro
open-fit wearer.



HEARING YOUR BEST

STAFF UPDATE

Help Us Welcome Laura Flowers

We are happy to announce that Laura Flowers, M.S., C.C.C.-A., F.A.A.A., has recently joined us as an audiologist serving our Overland Park and Prairie Village patients.



Laura received her Master's of Science degree in Audiology from Washington University in St. Louis and her Bachelor of Science degree in Communicative Disorders and Sciences from Wichita State University. Currently, she is working towards a Doctor of Audiology degree from the Pennsylvania College of Optometry, School of Audiology. She anticipates graduating in June 2009.

Laura has received the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Audiology through the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and is a certified clinical audiologist with state licenses in both Kansas and Missouri. She is a fellow of the American Academy of Audiology. She also serves on the organization's Publications Committee.

Before joining Associated Audiologists, Laura was a clinical audiologist with Washington University School of Medicine (WUSM) in St. Louis, where she provided diagnostic audiological and hearing aid services. She also supervised doctoral audiology students and assisted in medical student training at WUSM.

"My practice philosophy involves taking a 'patient-centered' approach to meet the unique needs of the

individual," Laura said. She believes in building lasting relationships with her patients and their family members through excellent patient care. Another area that is important

"I feel patient education is crucial in providing adequate and appropriate treatment and follow-up options for those with hearing loss."

to Laura is continuing her education in order to stay current with today's ever-changing hearing aid technology and assistive devices.

Laura and her husband, Joe, have two children and reside in Olathe, Kan. Laura grew up in Wichita, Kan., but lived in St. Louis for six years before moving back to the area. With several members of her family working in the healthcare field, Laura knew early on that working with patients was in her future. "I enjoy serving my patients every day," she said. "It is very rewarding to be able to help them hear their best."

Impotence Drugs May Increase Risk for Sudden Hearing Loss

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently warned the public that three impotence medications, Viagra, Levitra and Cialis, and one blood pressure drug, Revatio, may increase the risk for sudden hearing loss. As a result, the FDA has required the companies which manufacture these drugs to prominently display the potential risk for hearing loss on their labels.

The FDA began investigating the possible link between hearing loss and these drugs when it found a total of 29 reports involving patients who experienced ringing in their ears, vertigo and/or dizziness after taking these medications. "In two-thirds of the cases, the hearing loss was ongoing; the hearing loss was either partial or complete," according to a warning issued by the FDA.

In addition, there are about 4,000 cases of sudden hearing loss from other causes in the United States each year, according to the National Institutes of Health. Anyone who experiences sudden hearing loss after using one of these drugs, should immediately contact their physician.



Kansas Relay Center Facilitates Communication

The Kansas Relay Center is a free, 24-hour service that allows people who are Hearing, Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deaf-Blind or Speech Disabled to communicate with each other via the telephone. Through the use of specialized equipment, relay users communicate freely with friends, family and businesses who use a standard telephone.



When a call is made through Kansas Relay Center, a Communication Assistant (CA) facilitates the call. By using a TTY (also called a TDD or text telephone), people who do not hear and/or speak type their conversation and the CA “voices” what is typed. When the standard telephone user responds, the CA types everything that is heard. CAs serve as an invisible link between the parties on the call. All calls are kept strictly confidential. As required by law, CAs do not comment on the conversation, answer questions or become involved in any way; nor are any records of relay conversations saved.

Along with making basic relay calls, the Kansas Relay Center offers many special services which enable people of varying hearing or speech disabilities to use the relay service without having to type.

► **Voice Carry Over (VCO)** is an effective service for people who have a hearing loss and who use their voice on the phone. VCO users speak directly to the person being called and, through specialized equipment, read what is spoken by the other party. With VCO, the relay user doesn't have to struggle to hear what others say over the phone and can enjoy the freedom of using their own voice.

► **Hearing Carry Over (HCO)** is an effective service for people who have difficulty speaking and who are able to hear on the phone. HCO users can listen directly to the person on the other end of the phone and, through specialized equipment, type their responses to a CA who voices those responses to the other party. With HCO, relay users don't have to worry about whether their responses are being understood and can enjoy the freedom of using their own hearing while borrowing our voice.

► **Speech-to-Speech (STS)** is a relay service for people who have a difficult time speaking or being understood on the phone. Speech-to-Speech relay utilizes specially trained CAs to revoice the STS users side of the conversation as needed. To make a relay call using any of the services listed above call the Kansas Relay Center by dialing 7-1-1. These toll-free numbers can also be used. TTY/Voice: 1-800-766-3777
Speech to Speech: 1-866-305-1344

Individuals and organizations that would like more information, or would like to arrange for training or education about the Kansas Relay Center can call 1-866-735-2957 or e-mail ksrelay@hamiltonrelay.com.

Other Services Available through Kansas Relay Center

CapTel® is also available in the State of Kansas. Ideal for people with some degree of hearing loss, the Captioned Telephone (CapTel) works like any other telephone with one important addition: It displays every word the caller says throughout the conversation. *CapTel* phone users can listen to the caller, and can also read the written captions in the CapTel's bright display window.

Another feature offered by CapTel® is **CapTel USB™**. CapTel USB connects directly to a computer to display conversation captions on the computer screen. Large screen captions can be enjoyed throughout CapTel phone conversations! The user controls the size, color, and font style of the captions and conversations can even be saved and printed. Kansas relay customers can even set-up a customer profile to save their user preferences including connection mode, speed dials, preferred billing methods and more.

Hearing Your Best is published regularly by Associated Audiologists, Inc. All materials are created by our audiologists solely for the education of our patients and referring physicians. Any reproduction must be approved in writing by our editor. If you have comments or suggestions, please direct them to:

Editor: James A. Wise, Ph.D., C.C.C.-A.

Contributors: Traci Ring, David Nissen, Larry Ruder, Tim Steele, Stacey Baldwin and Laura Flowers, all certified by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and Fellows of the American Academy of Audiology.

Olathe

13025 S. Mur-Len Rd., Suite 220
Olathe, KS 66062 • 913-829-0891

Overland Park

12330 Metcalf Ave., Suite 560
Overland Park, KS 66213 • 913-498-2827

Prairie Village

7301 Mission Rd., Suite 140
Prairie Village, KS 66208 • 913-262-5855



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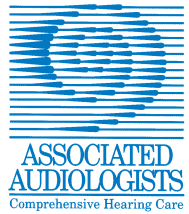
13025 S. Mur-Len Rd., Suite 220
Olathe, KS 66062

Return Service Requested

Important
Information
about your
hearing health from
Johnson County's
premier audiology
practice.



HEARING YOUR BEST



Hearing Perks

To help our patients benefit from their hearing aids and listening devices, we offer Hearing Perks.

Getting The Most From Your Hearing Aid

Please mark your calendar for one of these sessions:

▶ **Olathe, 13025 S. Mur-Len Rd., Suite 220, 913-829-0891**

▶ **Overland Park, 12330 Metcalf Ave., Suite 560, 913-498-2827**

▶ **Prairie Village, 7301 Mission Rd., Suite 140, 913-262-5855**

Wednesday, May 21, 10 to 11 a.m.

Thursday, May 8, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 7, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 18, 10 to 11 a.m.

Thursday, June 12, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 4, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 16, 10 to 11 a.m.

Thursday, July 10, 1:30 to 2:30

Wednesday, July 2, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 20, 10 to 11 a.m.

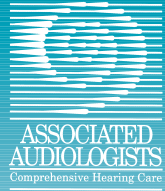
Thursday, Aug. 14, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 6, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Be sure and visit our Web site at www.hearingyourbest.com for additional information.

6 CLUES

you aren't Hearing Your Best



The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association estimates 28 million Americans have a hearing loss that can be treated. If you see yourself in one of the six statements below, you should consult an audiologist for a complete hearing evaluation.

- one** You frequently ask people to repeat themselves.
- two** You often turn your ear toward a sound to hear it better.
- three** You understand people better when you wear your glasses or look directly at their faces.
- four** You have difficulty following group conversations.
- five** You keep the volume of the radio or TV at a level that others say is too loud.
- six** You have pain or ringing in your ears.

All of our clinically certified audiologists are fellows of the American Academy of Audiology.

Call one of our three offices today to schedule an appointment to have your hearing evaluated and to learn more about the latest advances in hearing aid technology.

May is the Perfect Time to Update Your Hearing Technology!

THREE CONVENIENT LOCATIONS

Olathe

13025 S. Mur-Len Rd.,
Suite 220
Olathe, KS 66062
913-829-0891

Overland Park

12330 Metcalf Ave.,
Suite 560
Overland Park, KS 66213
913-498-2827

Prairie Village

7301 Mission Rd.,
Suite 140
Prairie Village, KS 66208
913-262-5855

In recognition of May being **Better Hearing Month**, we want our patients to have access to the latest hearing technology. If your hearing aids are *four years old or older*, we are offering you a **COMPLIMENTARY CONSULTATION** to learn more about the latest innovations in hearing aid technology! *(Normally a \$50 value).*

Call today to schedule your appointment! Offer good through May 31, 2008.

