

# Sounding Board

Newsletter

Summer 2017



Elkhart  
Audiology  
Rehab



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Change is constant. It sounds like an oxymoron, yet it's true. As you read this, change is occurring with us and with you. That's why keeping your regular check-ups is so important. You might have a new listening situation. If so, we can add a program to your current device. You might be struggling to communicate in the car or on the phone. If so, we likely have a new solution. You might just need things turned up a bit. If you visit, we promise to listen and to help you hear better.

Better yet, bring your family in to look and learn! With our new video otoscope, we can show what your ear drum looks like, if you have too much wax in your ear, or what your PE tube looks like. Hearing loss affects the whole family and the better we work together, the better results we can achieve.

And, thank you for your referrals. They are what keep us smiling from day to day. We really had a "wow moment" when the Elkhart Truth called to tell us we won Best of Hearing Services again this year. It is only because you take the time to vote and to share your experiences with family and friends that we receive this honor.



We feel blessed to be your partners in hearing care.

## Product News & Updates



TeleCare Audiology! Have a smart phone? New devices from **ReSound** or **Signia** (Siemens) enable me to adjust your hearing aids from my office by sending encrypted and secure data to you—no matter where you are!

**Phonak** and **Signia** now offer 24 hours of hearing on a single 90-minute charge! No more waiting 5-6 hours or being cut short after you have had your “ears in” for 12 hours. The encased rechargeable battery last 3 years and is replaceable. However, you cannot use disposable batteries with these types of devices.

**Signia** has developed “flex-fit” demo devices. I can give you a short trial with entry-level, mid-level, or premium-level circuitry. This can help you in choosing the level of technology that meets your listening needs before we place your order. There is a \$250 charge for this flex demo. But a credit is applied once you place an order.

**ReSound Linx 3-D** uses an upgraded, binaural directionality to focus on sounds important to you without losing touch with what is going on around you.

**Phonak Virto B-Titanium** is a super discreet (deep in the canal fit) that is 15x stronger than acrylic and is water and dust resistant. You will need excellent dexterity to be able to change batteries every 3 days in these tiny devices.



Have questions about another product? Just call. I take courses to stay informed on the latest advances; read technical white papers to get past the marketing hype, and even evaluate them myself before I recommend them to you.



**Favorite patient quote:** “Each morning I look forward to putting my ‘ears’ back on. I can then hear my cats purr. Before, I could only feel their motors running on my lap!”

# Community Support

E.A.R. supports our community!

- Some is financial in nature like our sponsorships for a Veteran's Motorcycle ride and the Elkhart County 4-H Fair Queen Gala.
- Some is informative in nature such as presenting on Tinnitus and Hearing loss for the local Hearing Loss Association of America. (Yes, they still meet at the Wakarusa Public Library on the third Wednesday of the month).
- And some is just heart-warming like when we donate services and supplies to fit free sets of hearing aids each year through the Lion's Club.

Did you know that if you donate old hearing aids to our office we can get them to the Lion's Club or the Hear Now Foundation? They could be used for parts to fix another unit. Or, they could be refurbished and put into the Indianapolis loaner bank.

## *Lucky Us! Lucky You!*

In August, we celebrate our 7th anniversary and once again the ice cream is on us. Stop in anytime for your free dilly bar.

For our Loyal Listeners, that have had a referral card turned in with their name on it, we have a series of extraordinary events coming that include desserts, coffee, and champagne! Invitations are now in the works.

## *What is Aural Rehab?*

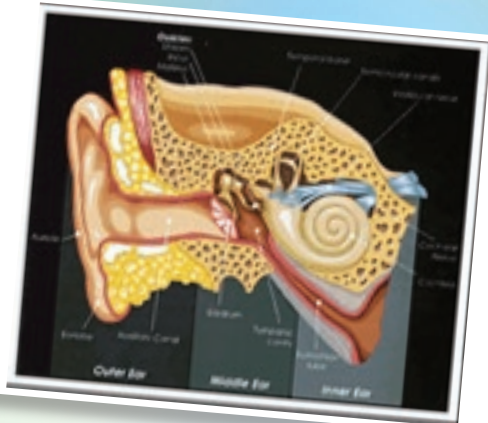
It is a way to help your brain focus on minor sound differences that can change the meaning of words or a message. There are several Aural Rehab options. Some are free like the Starkey Hear Coach App or DVD's from Signia. Others will take an investment in time and money but offer the best outcomes. The latest online program is called "CLEAR" and uses the voices of your loved ones in the practice sessions. Cool, huh? If you are struggling with clarity, contact me for an appointment. I'll find the rehabilitation approach that best suits your needs.

# Learning Resources

## ▶ Hearing Health Blogs

If you visit our website or Facebook page, or provide your email address, you can have access to Sharon's monthly "hearing health" blog. These also go to your physicians to keep them informed and to help support your need for referrals.

Here are a few of the latest blog posts:



Preventative care can help alleviate the chance for ear injury or pain. When it comes to hearing loss, . . .

## ▶ Noticing Signs of Hearing Loss

Have you thanked your doctor for their referral? Physicians typically hear concerns, but don't often hear just how happy you are when you can hear better. They might not even notice you are wearing new devices since so many are so discrete. Thank you for sharing the good news!!!



Ototoxicity: damage to the hearing or balance functions of the ear by drugs or chemicals.

Here's what you and cancer patients need to know.

## ▶ Cancer Treatments & Hearing Loss



One often-overlooked component of personal safety is the care we can give to our hearing. Work life and lifestyle choices have an impact . . .

## ▶ Hearing Safety