



Tim Hunsaker, Au.D.
Doctor of Audiology

Message from Dr. Hunsaker

A Message from Our Doctor: Changes and growth



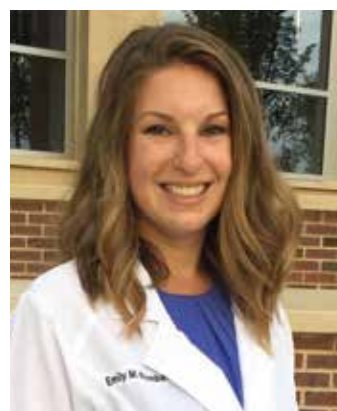
What a ride the past six months have been. We had an audiologist move, hired new staffing and opened a third office, all while still making time to watch the World Cup.

In January, Dr. Candace Newkirk accepted a position with a cochlear implant company and moved to Arkansas to be closer to family. Fortunately for us and for our patients, we found Dr. Jackie Walters. Dr. Walters joins our clinic from Nevada Ear and Sinus, where she was head of audiology for the past three years. Her expertise and knowledge was evident from the first encounter. She has lived in the Las Vegas valley for over ten years.



Jackie Walters, Au.D.
Doctor of Audiology

We also have added a doctoral candidate to our team, Emily Romberger, B.S. She will finish her doctorate in audiology in the spring of 2019 from East Carolina University, located in Greenville, North Carolina. Emily brings a fresh perspective to our office and has extensive experience in helping patients of all ages. It is nice to have someone in the office with a more German name than mine!



Emily Romberger,
Doctoral Candidate

Lastly, we opened a new office to serve our patients in northwest Las Vegas. Our new office is located at 2911 N. Tenaya Way, suite 205. It is directly across from Mountain View Hospital. It is nice to have a presence in that part of the valley. It is open Monday through Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

It has been a busy few months. As always we are grateful to be experiencing growth.

It's music to our ears

Desert Valley donates assistive listening devices to The Smith Center



The Smith Center for the performing arts opened in 2012. Since that time they have used what is known as an infrared system to provide hearing assistance. Infrared has limits in that it requires the user to be in direct line of sight with the transmitter. If a user is seated in a corner or turned they may not hear the sound. In addition, after six years of use the equipment was in need of repair.

Desert Valley Audiology saw the perfect opportunity to help our community. We donated two completely new FM systems to The Smith Center. One system will be permanently located in Reynolds Hall and the other is portable to allow for use in Symphony Park or in Cabaret Jazz Theatre. The advantage to an FM system is that regardless of where the user is located they will hear the sound. This allows patrons to sit in any part of the auditorium and hear the sound directly in a headset or their hearing aids, through use of a teleCoil.

If you need hearing assistance while attending a performance at The Smith Center, stop by the patron services desk to check out an assistive listening device. If you are unsure if your hearing aids are compatible with their devices stop by one of the Desert Valley offices or feel free to give us a call.



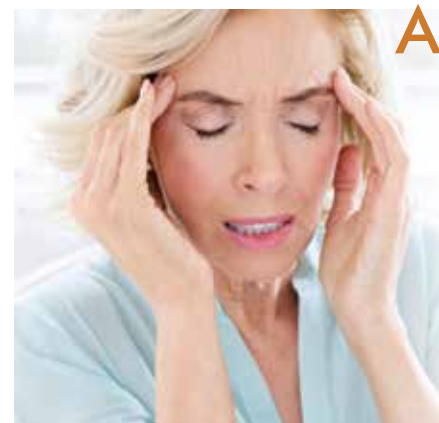
Don't let summer fun dampen your devices

Summer time can bring challenges for hearing aid wearers. With the rise in allergens and wet weather, closer attention needs to be paid to maintenance and upkeep of hearing devices. For example, increased allergens can clog microphone ports in hearing aids, so be sure to clean hearing aids regularly and replace covers of mic ports when necessary.

Along with allergens, summer is accompanied by heat, humidity, rain and extreme temperature changes. Moisture is the enemy of hearing aids, as it can build up in the tubing, damage the microphone and receiver, and cause static. Make sure to wear a hat or use an umbrella when going out in the rain. And in addition to regular cleaning, use a hearing aid dehumidifier overnight or anytime your hearing aids are exposed to excess moisture.



Are your migraines causing hearing loss?



Studies are showing there's a link between hearing loss and migraine headaches. No matter how well you think you hear, it's important for to get an annual hearing evaluation. But, if you suffer from migraine headaches it may be even more important to keep close check on your hearing health.

Studies show that those who suffer from migraine headaches have an increased risk of developing hearing loss than those who do not and migraine sufferers are also twice as likely to suffer from sudden sensorineural hearing loss (SSHL). If you have been diagnosed by a specialist with migraine disease, make sure your treatment plan includes an annual hearing test with a hearing healthcare professional from Desert Valley Audiology.

Which hearing aids are right for me?

You've been diagnosed with a hearing loss and now it's time to select a hearing device. The one you pick will greatly depend on the severity of your hearing loss and your lifestyle. Here are a few things to consider when discussing hearing devices with your provider:

Are you a technology buff? If you answered yes, chances are there's a hearing aid that can keep up with your fascination for the latest and greatest gadget. Most of today's devices can be controlled with an app on your smartphone. And Bluetooth technology allows hearing aids to connect wirelessly to your smartphone, tablets, televisions or car audio.

Do you live in a noisy world? If you work in a loud environment or tend to have a very active social life, directional microphone technology can help you make sense of that noise. The dual microphones help you better understand speech in noisy environments.

Do you want your device hidden? If you would like to be more discreet with your hearing loss, you may want to consider tiny receiver-in-the-canal (RIC) or receiver-in-the-ear (RITE) styles. Keep in mind these smaller devices come with some tradeoffs that you should discuss with a Desert Valley Audiology hearing health care professional.

Do you have dexterity issues? The smaller the device, the smaller the controls. If you struggle with fine motor skills you will likely benefit from wearing a behind-the-ear (BTE) or a larger custom style. Features like the battery door and volume control will be larger on these devices making it easier for you to adjust.

At Desert Valley Audiology our team is here to help you pick the right device for your lifestyle. We are here for your hearing health every step of the way.

