Fall 2026:Volume 12

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Brain-Controlled Hearing Aids??

Researchers who have been studying the brainwave pattern of patients listening to multiple speakers in noise were able to design an algorithm using that neural signature to modify a confusing "cocktail party" signal so that people could better understand the one person that they were trying to hear. The system correctly identified the person they wanted to hear up to 90% of the time! Slight caveat - the experimental subjects had electrodes in their brain as they were receiving epilepsy treatments at the time, however the results should be replicable without the electrodes – good news for all of us!

Real-Time Brain-Controlled Selective Hearing Enchances Speech Perception in Multi-Talker Environments
Nature NeuroScience 5/11/26



Brattleboro Hearing Center

BHC



"Doctor, I think I'm losing my hearing!"
Says the doctor, "What are the symptoms?"
"Well, it's a cartoon show about a little yellow family, but what has that got to do with my hearing?"

Health and Hearing

One of the questions we can't always answer is "Why did my hearing change?" There are usually many factors to consider, and sometimes there really is no answer. But we do know that hearing can influence our health and our health can influence our hearing – it's a two-way street!

It is well known these days that untreated hearing loss can increase the risk of medical issues like falls and cognitive changes, but there are also medical issues that can cause hearing loss.

Many of the diseases that affect blood flow, like diabetes, high blood pressure, and cardiovascular disease, first impact our peripheral arteries and veins. Even though the inner ear (cochlea) feels like it is centrally located, the blood supply system to it is limited. When blood flow is restricted, the hair cells in the cochlea can be impacted resulting in hearing loss.

Just one more reason to follow all those doctors' orders to manage your health conditions to the best of your abilities, and as always, to treat hearing loss properly when it occurs!

New Technology!

Love it or hate it, AI has entered the hearing aid arena. Several hearing aids have been released in the last few months including Oticon Reveal and Phonak Eon Sphere, each with some pretty fancy AI features for better hearing in noise. If it's been a while since you updated your hearing aids, you may notice quite an improvement.







A Welcome and a Goodbye…

Katie Donoghue joined us in February 2026 after many years at the Clarke School for the Deaf clinic in Northampton, Massachusetts, bringing her excellent patient care with her! She is seeing children and adults in Brattleboro and Greenfield.

We are sad to say goodbye to Shayna Sawyer, as she bid us farewell this summer to move to the south coast of Massachusetts.

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