

## **Hearing aid acousticians improve quality of life using digital hearing systems**

(EUHA/Mainz, 7 September 2018) Technical developments are revolutionary. A telephone with a dial, which was exclusively used for telephone calls and used to be found in every household until the 1980s, has little in common with modern smartphones. These are used to make purchases, write text messages, and connect worldwide. Modern hearing systems have developed at a similar pace. Until a few years ago, they were exclusively intended for listening. Now they have digital functions and can be connected to TV sets, telephones, and GPS via Bluetooth.

Today, the little marvels of technology can do more than just provide better hearing. Household appliances such as washing machines or coffee makers can be controlled via hearing systems, and when wearers are travelling, announcements on platforms can directly be transmitted to them. Abroad, a translation function ensures that speech in the desired language is translated directly into the hearing instruments. Hearing systems are becoming increasingly complex, they can measure vital signs and oxygen saturation. Wearers of hearing systems are clearly at an advantage here, and – in addition to being able to hear – are technically up to date.

Qualified hearing aid acousticians are experts when it comes to customising modern technology to the needs of people with impaired hearing. They carry out the initial fitting, and ensure that adjustments are made over the following weeks and months. This means that people using hearing systems can be connected at all levels, and may combine various technical options such as listening to music, watching television, or making phone calls.

"I recommend that everyone with good hearing and who wants to be technically up to date visit a hearing aid acoustician. The specialist can determine whether there is a hearing loss, and provide information about suitable technical possibilities. A hearing test will reveal the individual's hearing status," says Martin Blecker, the president of the European Union of Hearing Aid Acousticians.

In the near future, there will be a new generation of hearing systems. Equipped with special sensor technology, they can analyse the wearer's body movements. In the event of a fall, an emergency call can be triggered using the smartphone so that the person who has fallen receives help quickly. This is where hearing systems can play a vital role.

The 63rd International Congress of Hearing Aid Acousticians will be held in Hannover between 17 and 19 October 2018. Hearing aid acousticians have the chance to train at the world's largest specialist convention in the industry. This ensures that they are always at the cutting edge of technology, and can provide expert advice and fitting. Current knowledge from research, technology, and hearing aid acoustics will be presented in twenty scientific lectures by internationally renowned hearing care professionals. More than 130 exhibitors will showcase their technical innovations at the accompanying trade exhibition.



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Caption: Digital hearing facilitates maximum connectivity

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