

## ***Here is what's new in our September 2017 Edition:***

**Advocacy Help:** *Being Nudged By The Importance Of Self-Advocacy:* Hard of Hearing (HOH) people often experience great difficulties when making use of airports as part of their routine travel arrangements, because of the difficulty of hearing announcements associated with gate changes and connecting flights. In this article, Ed Schickel (our Editor) highlights the importance for the HOH person to be alert, to ask and to assertively seek information from multiple sources and also to self-advocate by contacting airport officials and filing complaints. Expressing our needs and advocating in this way not only helps ourselves but helps others too!

**Guidance Articles:** *What Is Tinnitus:* Do you experience Tinnitus? The Hearing Health Foundation has produced an article on "What is Tinnitus." It is divided into sections: Tinnitus Causes and Demographics; Diagnosing Tinnitus; Tinnitus Treatments; Tinnitus Effect on Daily Life. This is an excellent primer on Tinnitus!

**Ask The Experts:** *Dr. Severtson Responds:* This month a reader asks the doctor a question about what is removed from the ear during cochlear implant surgery.

**Current Research:** *Age-Related Hearing Loss And Communication Breakdown In A Clinical Setting:* It is not uncommon for older adults to report mishearing a physician or nurse in a primary care or hospital setting, according to a study published by JAMA Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery. The prevalence of medical errors is higher among older patients. Failures in clinical communication are considered to be the leading cause of medical errors. A previous study reported that improved communication between the medical teams and families could have prevented 36 percent of medical errors.

**Layperson's Guide:** *How Hearing Works:* The Hearing Health Foundation has produced an article on "How Hearing Works." It is a clearly explained introduction and review of hearing loss. It is divided into the following sections: How it works; Types of Hearing Loss; Degrees of Hearing Loss; Causes of Hearing Loss; Recognizing Hearing Loss; Myths and Tips.

**My Story:** *What Is A Normal Life With Hearing loss?:* Recently I met a man with an obvious hearing loss. He used hearing aids and assistive listening devices, yet he missed parts of what I said. So I asked him if he'd like to learn about the local chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA). "No," he said. "I'm not interested in giving more energy to my hearing loss than I already do. I would rather live a normal life." I wondered, what is a "normal" life with hearing loss? How much energy dedicated to it is "too much".

**Points of View:** *An Example Of Self-Advocacy Issues And What A Person Can Do:* Our Editor came across this interesting article whereby an HLAA chapter member attended his niece's white coat ceremony that was held in the performing arts building at Kent State University in Ohio. The ceremony was for students accepted into the university's audiology program. The chapter member said he got there five minutes late and ended up near the back of the auditorium. He had a difficult time hearing so requested hearing assistance. He was told they did not have anything and that, in the past, they had tried to work with their administration to get something but was unsuccessful.