Andre Marcoux: The man behind EarScript

Want to compare hearing aids? There's an app for that

Andre Marcoux, Ph.D., adjunct professor and audiologist has teamed up with Dr. Matthew Bromwich, an otolaryngologist and founder of Clearwater Clinical Medical Technology, to bring hearing health care clinicians an innovative and patent-pending iPad application. The app, EarScript, allows patients to listen to and compare different hearing aids from a variety of manufacturers within minutes.

Professor Marcoux explains that although hearing aids are medical devices, they are increasingly being treated as novelty items. "It's important for consumers to be aware that not all products are suitable for them or their level of hearing loss simply because manufacturers or hearing aid centres claim this is the case."

Also, Prof. Marcoux became increasingly concerned about hearing aid manufacturers purchasing hearing aid centres and possibly restricting options to meet the needs of an individual's hearing loss.

EarScript allows patients to hear and compare various makes and models of hearing aids.

Such concerns lead Prof. Marcoux to the development of EarScript, the world's first software-based hearing aid appraisal device. Licensed to hearing health care clinicians, EarScript allows patients to hear and compare various makes and models of hearing aids specifically for their level of hearing loss. The sound quality of each hearing aid can be appraised in a variety of listening situations, as simple or complex as those encountered in everyday life by the patient.

"Given the importance and considerable expense of treating hearing loss, it's important for patients to confirm — along with their hearing health care professional — that their hearing aids will meet their particular needs and budget," says Prof. Marcoux. "Ultimately, EarScript allows patients to make more informed and accurate choices in a stress-free environment."

What is EarScript?

EarScript is an iPad app licensed to hearing health care centres allowing patients to test drive a large selection of hearing aids from different manufacturers for themselves at licensed centres.

Why was EarScript developed?

Professor Andre Marcoux designed EarScript believing patients deserve an unbiased level of care, which extends beyond the single-brand hearing centres. Professor Marcoux also wanted to help service-minded audiologists and clinicians provide their patients with unbiased and tangible information about the hearing aids they were recommending.

How does EarScript work?

With EarScript, patients can listen to a variety of recorded files which represent the output from various models of hearing aids. Specific recorded files are available for each patient's degree of hearing loss, allowing patients insights into how levels of technology from various manufacturers will address their particular hearing needs.

Where can I try EarScript?

Although available across Canada, EarScript is licensed exclusively to select clinics providing an unbiased and superior level of hearing health care. For more information, or to find a licensed hearing health care centre in your area, visit EarScript's website at www.earscript.com.