

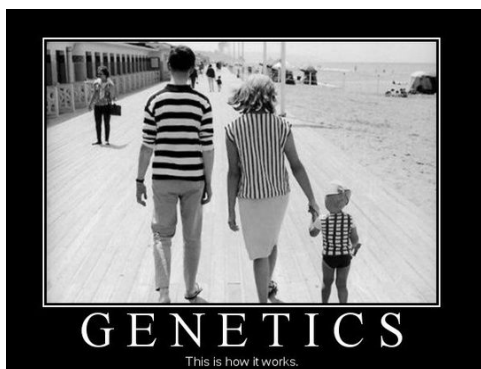
Victorian
Hearing

Independent Audiology Practice



Edition 23 –
Autumn 2019

Joke of the Month

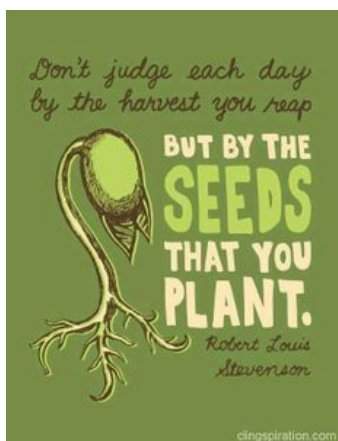


9LoLs.com

2019 has started off with a bang here at Victorian Hearing and it is already March! We celebrate World Hearing Day on March 3rd and Hearing Awareness Week from 3rd-9th March.

With research showing links between untreated hearing loss and early cognitive decline; depression; isolation; increased risk of falls; osteoporosis; cardiac issues; cancer treatments and diabetes it is more important than ever to ensure we are all hearing the best we can.

Quote of the Month



clingspiration.com



World Hearing Day
HEARING awareness
WEEK

Victorian Hearing is providing Free hearing Screenings at all our clinics during the month of March to promote hearing awareness and the importance of good hearing health. Do your friends a favour and encourage them to have their hearing checked by our friendly audiologists today.

News

There are some interesting new releases to share with those of you who like to know what is happening in the world of hearing and hearing aid technology. Starkey is about to release an aid with added health detection features and the Phonak Marvel aid has been a much awaited release for those with Android devices wanting direct streaming.

Microsoft is Adding Real-Time Captions to PowerPoint and Skype

December 21, 2018

Earlier this month, Microsoft announced that both PowerPoint and Skype will be getting real-time captions and subtitles beginning in 2019. The intention of the new feature is to be more inclusive and allow individuals that are deaf or hard of hearing the ability to more easily follow presentations in PowerPoint or spoken audio during Skype calls.

The captions are said to be based on Microsoft's ongoing work in artificial intelligence (AI) to provide captions and translations. According to Microsoft, the subtitles and captions will be customizable and the speech recognition should adapt for more accurate terminology based on context.

For PowerPoint, captions and subtitles can be displayed in the same language or in a different one, allowing non-native speakers a translation of a presentation. At time of launch, live captions and subtitles will support 12 spoken languages and display on-screen captions or subtitles in one of 60+ languages.

The live captioning technology is said to begin rolling out in late January 2019.

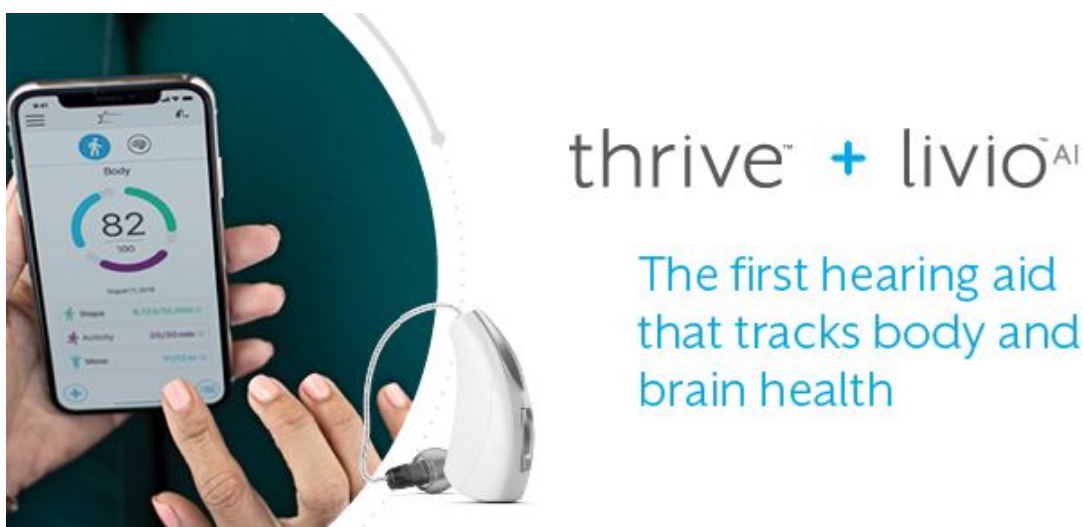
Source: Microsoft

Starkey Enhances Livio AI, Adds Fall Detection and Alerts, Heart Rate Measurement, and Virtual Assistant

January 7, 2019

At the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas, Starkey Hearing Technologies announced enhancements to its recently released Livio AI hearing aid. Among the announced features is the first-ever Fall Detection and Alert capability within a hearing aid. Heart Rate Measurement and a built-in Virtual Assistant were also included in the release.

The new highly-anticipated Fall Alert feature is said to be able to detect falls and send alert messages to selected contacts. Starkey says that it has incorporated significant new inventions to avoid false-positives and flag only true falls.



"This is such an exciting time to be a part of the hearing industry. We continue to transform the hearing aids with embedded sensors and artificial intelligence – whether it be through integrating Fall Alert, Heart Rate Measurement, Translation or a built-in Virtual Assistant. And we are just getting started – with advanced

environmental detection, geotagged settings, a natural user interface and now a rechargeable option, Livio AI is the ultimate in sound quality, in usability and a multi-functional, must-have device.” –Achin Bhowmik, PhD, Starkey CTO and EVP of Engineering

Among the new and existing features included within the Starkey Livio AI hearing aid include:

- Fall Detection and Alerts – *NEW*
- Heart Rate Measurement – *NEW*
- Thrive Virtual Assistant, built on Google Assistant – *NEW*
- Rechargeable option – *NEW*
- Voice-to-text Transcription – *NEW*
- Self Check for hearing performance – *NEW*
- Translation in 27 languages
- Natural user interface with tap control
- Amazon Alexa connectivity

With falls being a major health issue and a growing concern with an aging population, the company believes the new Fall Alert feature included in the Livio devices has the potential to save lives. “I have always dreamed about making a monumental positive impact on society,” said Bill Austin, Founder and CEO of Starkey Hearing Technologies. “Livio AI and its fall-alert feature will not only provide peace of mind to caregivers but could potentially saves lives all over the world.”

Livio AI’s embedded sensors and artificial intelligence also paved the way for in-ear receivers that provide accurate heart-rate measurement and heart-rate recovery information. This empowers people to engage proactively in their own fitness efforts and improve their overall health.

To further add to the usability and multi-function of Livio AI, Starkey is introducing the Thrive Virtual Assistant, which is integrated with the Google Assistant for hands-free help. This application-based assistant can answer questions such as, “What’s today’s weather forecast?” It also allows the user to conveniently troubleshoot hearing-aid and accessory issues.

Livio AI includes a new mobile app—Thrive™ Hearing Control; and four new wireless accessories:

- Starkey Hearing Technologies TV
- Remote
- Mini Remote Microphone
- Remote Microphone +

With the new Remote Microphone +, Livio AI is also the first hearing aid to feature Amazon Alexa connectivity.

Availability:

The Livio AI is currently available in the U.S. and Canada, with global availability to more than 20 countries beginning in 2019.

Source: AP, Starkey

Phonak Marvel Hearing Aid Named Edison Awards Finalist for 2019

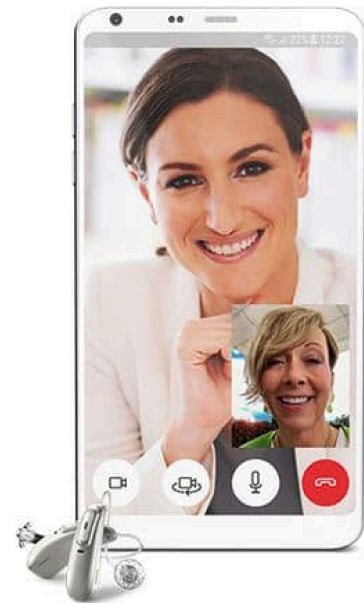
February 13, 2019

WARRENVILLE, ILLINOIS — Phonak announced this week that its new Marvel hearing aids have been named a 2019 Edison Awards Finalist in the Consumer Electronics & Information Technology category. The Edison Awards, named after Thomas Alva Edison, seeks to recognize and honor world's best in innovators and innovations. The Edison Awards will announce gold, silver and bronze award winners at the Edison Awards Gala held Thursday, April 4, 2019 in New York City.

The Phonak Audéo™ Marvel, which was released for sale in late 2018, is the only hearing aid that offers the ability to stream audio content from iPhone, Android smartphones or any number of other Bluetooth enabled devices to both ears in stereo, without an intermediary device.

Marvel hearing aids are lithium-ion rechargeable and offer users access to hearing care through a suite of smart apps that connect hearing aid wearers with their hearing care professional via their smartphone. These include video chat, instant feedback regarding their wearing experience, remote fine-tuning from anywhere in the world, and real-time voice-to-text transcription of phone calls.

Phonak Marvel hearing aid technology allows users to benefit from a suite of smart apps that instantly connect hearing aid wearers with their hearing care professional via their smartphone.



According to the company press release, the features and benefits of its new Marvel hearing aids includes:

- Clear, rich sound quality from the moment the hearing aids are fit
- Exceptional speech understanding and reduced listening effort in noisy environments
- The first and only solution to support binaural direct streaming from Android smartphones
- The ability to stream all audio content seamlessly from any Bluetooth device, including iPhone, Android, Macs and PCs, TVs and billions of other devices to both ears in stereo
- Truly hands-free phone conversations thanks to on-board microphones that allow wearers to “talk through” their hearing aids
- Industry-leading lithium-ion rechargeability that allows a full day of hearing and streaming on a single charge

All nominations to this year's Edison Awards were reviewed by the Edison Awards Steering Committee and the final ballot sent to an independent judging panel. The judging panel was comprised of more than 3,000 professionals from the fields of product development, design, engineering, science, marketing and education, including professional organizations representing a wide variety of industries and disciplines.

Source: Phonak, Edison Awards