

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Etymotic Research, Inc. Sponsors Research Project with the School of Audiology at the Pennsylvania College of Optometry and Children's Hospital Boston

Elk Grove Village, IL February 22, 2006—Etymotic Research announces the collaboration of Terri Ives, Sc. D. of the School of Audiology at the Pennsylvania College of Optometry and Brian Fligor, Sc. D. from Children's Hospital Boston in a research project to investigate the effects of different types of earphones on hearing risk. The concern about the incidence of hearing loss, particularly in young persons, has been discussed in recent news articles.

Research Design

"Hearing loss is a function of loudness level and exposure time," said Mead C. Killion, Ph. D., president of Etymotic Research. "Drs. Ives and Fligor are measuring the subjects' preferred listening levels with a tiny microphone placed in the ear canal. No other group has studied actual use levels with different earphones in different background noises." Ives and Fligor expect to test 100 young adults to determine individual levels and the typical range of exposure they receive on a daily basis.

Why is the Music so Loud?

Many listeners turn up the volume on their players to overcome noise in their surroundings. Conventional headphones may not block out enough noise for the listener to hear clearly without turning the volume up to a level that may be unsafe for prolonged periods. The best earphones provide enough noise exclusion to enable the user to listen at lower levels.

This study is the first of its kind to quantify noise exposure from personal earphones on such a large sample of listeners.

About Etymotic Research

Etymotic Research is a Chicago-based research, development and manufacturing company that designs products to measure, improve, and protect hearing, including high fidelity, noise-isolating in-the-ear earphones.