

## **Todd the Translational Researcher**

Published July 8th, 2024

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From time to time, CanadianAudiologist.ca dedicates a special issue to someone in our field who has devoted their life to research that better the lives of hard-of-hearing people. But for this, we thought we would take a page out of Frank Capra's 1942 movie with Jimmy Stewart called *It's a Wonderful Life*. In this movie, Clarence Odbody, Angel Second Class - helps the Jimmy Stewart character to learn what life in Bedford Falls would have been like if he had never existed. So... we asked Clarence Odbody to help us write this Preamble.

Without Dr. Todd Ricketts we wouldn't know as much as we do about directionality's role in improving the SNR for hard-of-hearing people. We also wouldn't know as much about compression and its settings for various types of hearing loss. And we wouldn't know nearly as much as we do about the bandwidth of hearing aids for various audiometric configurations. Millions of patients still struggle with sub-optimal hearing aids because their audiologists would not have learned master techniques from Todd in a classroom or a hands-on hearing aid workshop.

Todd's research is translational- based on his work, we have well-defined research-based recommendations on how to set the bandwidth of a hearing aid for any number of hearing loss configurations, along with the correct setting of the WDRC as well as how this all interacts with gain, output, and the microphones' directional settings.

Todd is also a friend who encourages his students and colleagues and supports them in their endeavours. He is omnipresent at audiology conferences and, for good reason, is the centre of attention both at the academic and social parts.

Without Todd we may still be fitting omni-directional linear hearing aids with the same frequency response for all types of hearing losses.

Thank you, Todd, for being in our field.

Sincerely,

**Marshall Chasin, AuD**

**Steve Aiken, PhD**

**Erin Picou, AuD., PhD, CCC-A**

**Clarence Odbody, Angel (2<sup>nd</sup> Class)**