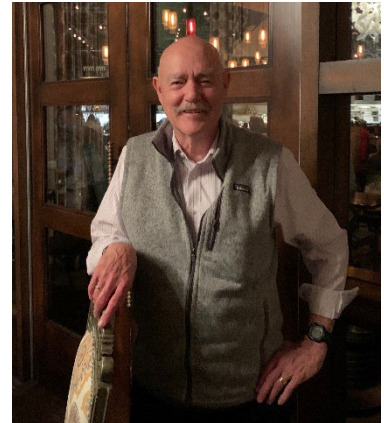


## Something about Mead

**The Canadian Academy of Audiology acknowledges outstanding contributions after the recent passing of Dr. Mead Killion.**

This next issue of CanadianAudiologist.ca (going live on Thursday November 13) is dedicated not only to the life's accomplishments of Dr. Mead Killion, but also for his work in supporting and teaching others. This issue is called "Something about Mead" and while that sounds like a song from The Sound of Music- Something about Maria (or also known as "How do you solve a problem, like Maria?"), it has nothing to do with musicals... actually it does, since many of Mead's innovations and commercializations of products over the years have benefitted musicians by protecting their hearing, and designing amplification products that have been the mainstay for hard of hearing musicians over decades. And Mead, like Maria in The Sound of Music, was someone who was quite special!



Mead was known as an inventor of products that left us scratching our heads trying to figure out why we didn't think of it first; he was a teacher that had always had an uncanny way of translating phrases like "the acoustic impedance of the acoustic inertance, is proportional to frequency" into everyday English by just saying that "high frequencies don't like small spaces". Since the 1980s, Mead never just travelled with a single suitcase when giving talks- he also had another bag filled with horns, lengths of tubing of various diameters, and other demonstrations that bring both the acoustics and the electronics of hearing aids to life.

But Mead never forgot his teachers. He made sure that we knew who Elmer Carlson was – an amazing engineer at Industrial Research Products/Knowles in the 1970s and early 1980s- who designed the basis for what was to become the musicians' earplug; and Elmer Carlson's work on the twin tube idea led to Mead's patent on insert earphones. Elmer Carlson's inventions and ideas were crucial for products that led to the ER15 and ER20 musicians' earplugs, or the ER3 insert earphone. Mead's company Etymotic Research made available to our field many important innovations that we couldn't imagine not having access to. And later, M.C.K. Audio was founded that allowed Mead to develop other products for hard of hearing people. Another teacher was Ed Villchur- the father of multiband compression and the modern (air-suspended) loudspeakers we all take for granted. Mead always made clear to all of us, who he worked with. Some of his articles had an Acknowledgement section that was almost as long as the article- see for example one of my personal favorite articles from 1988 "An acoustically invisible hearing aid" where Mead introduced the world's first high-fidelity hearing aid, but also acknowledged the work of many others in our field.



Mead has written a wealth of articles either alone or with colleagues- 88 articles, 21 book chapters, and he holds 92 US patents. What better way to spend an afternoon by reading through them, and this is what we have done. This is not just a labour of love for the editors of this issue of CanadianAudiologist.ca but a great way to be forced to go back to “first principles” and learn from the master himself. Each of Mead’s articles and book chapters are packed with great translational information. Other than being available on the Etymotic.com website, the references can be found on [www.MeadShare.com](http://www.MeadShare.com).

I would like to thank the three guest editors of this issue of CanadianAudiologist.ca who assisted me in putting together this issue called “Something about Mead”. Each short item consists of an article that Mead has been involved in, followed by something about Mead’s character that makes him so important to our field, followed by a short summary, and then a link to that article which is housed on the Etymotic.com website- the company he founded and became synonymous with all the “stuff” we needed as clinical and research audiologists. We would like to thank Etymotic Research for maintaining Mead’s many articles on their website. Larry Revit worked closely with Mead for decades on a number of important projects and was his teaching assistant while doing his master’s training in Audiology. Steve Armstrong, an engineer and President of Sounds Good Labs, is well-known in the hearing aid industry and has designed many of the circuits that have been, and are still be used in modern hearing aids. Steve Aiken- a great teacher and researcher like Mead- is an associate professor at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia as well as the Associate Editor of CanadianAudiologist.ca. And I am the Editor in Chief of CanadianAudiologist.ca and someone who is privileged to call Mead Killion a friend.

Marshall Chasin, AuD, Editor in Chief

Steve Aiken, PhD, Associate Editor

Steve Armstrong, B.Eng., Guest Editor

Larry Revit, M.A., Guest Editor