SpeechEasy Efficacy Study Launched by University of Florida Researchers

Study will identify factors that affect clinical outcomes for speakers who use the SpeechEasy device.

Greenville, NC (PRWEB) June 9, 2009 -- Janus Development Group, Inc. - Researchers at the University of Florida's Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders announced the launch of a study to determine factors that affect clinical outcomes for speakers who use the SpeechEasy device.

The study will be conducted at the University's Speech and Hearing Clinic. Researchers led by Kenneth Logan, Ph.D., Associate Professor, will evaluate data collected from 40 individuals who stutter. Participants must be at least 16 years old, stutter at least mildly, and meet various other eligibility criteria. Interested individuals will receive a comprehensive assessment of speech and related abilities. Individuals who meet criteria for further participation will be invited to complete a 10-week-long stuttering therapy program. During the program, a speech-language pathologist will help participants develop and apply specific stuttering management strategies, which include use of the SpeechEasy device and/or behavioral techniques for regulating speaking rate. Upon completion of the 10-week-long treatment program, participants will be re-assessed and invited to participate in a 6-month follow-up program, which focuses upon application of stuttering management strategies in real-world situations. Participants who complete the entire 10-week treatment plus the pre- and post-treatment speech assessments will be paid $200.00. Participants who complete the entire 6-month follow-up period will be paid an additional $60.00.

It is expected that results from this research will provide useful information about the factors that predict and affect treatment outcomes with individuals who use the SpeechEasy device as a tool for managing stuttering.

About SpeechEasy

SpeechEasy is a portable and inconspicuous fluency-enhancing device that can help people who stutter speak more fluently with less effort. It is available in a variety of styles and models that are custom fitted and programmed for each individual user. The device was developed by a team of communication disorder researchers at East Carolina University, and is marketed by Janus Development Group. SpeechEasy devices are available exclusively via a nationwide network of state licensed, ASHA (American Speech-Language Hearing Association)-certified speech language pathologists. More information about SpeechEasy is available at www.speecheasy.com

About the University of Florida and the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders

The University of Florida (UF) is a major, public, comprehensive, land-grant, research university. It is one of only 17 public, land-grant universities that belong to the Association of American Universities. The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Florida currently has enrolled approximately 400 undergraduate majors and 120 graduate majors in its various degree programs on campus, along with approximately 100 students in its Doctor of Audiology distance learning program. Faculty members in the Department are engaged in a wide variety of basic and clinical research.

Dr. Logan has been a professor at the University of Florida since 1995. He teaches undergraduate courses dealing with normal language development and speech disorders, and graduate courses dealing with stuttering,
phonological disorders, and research evaluation. He is co-author of a recently published assessment tool for stuttering, The Test of Childhood Stuttering. His research has primarily focused upon examining the relationships between linguistic factors and speech fluency, improving the efficiency and reliability of fluency assessment methods, and identifying factors that affect how nonstuttering people perceive people who stutter.

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