

MEDIA RELEASE
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SCIENCE AFTER DARK LECTURE SERIES

“Walter Reed Hospital Research Scientist Presents Military Combat Induced Hearing Loss and Prevention”

San Luis Obispo, CA – (immediate release) The Central Coast STEM Collaborative (CCSTEM), will continue its ongoing informal, educational lecture series “Science After Dark” with a lecture at 6:30pm, October 18, 2016 at Luis Wine Bar in San Luis Obispo. The series is scheduled for the third Tuesday of every month through May, 2017. Visit www.ccstem.org for details of future topics and locations.

Hearing is known to play an essential role in military operations. However, the battlefield is also an extremely noisy place and our nation’s warfighters are often reluctant to wear hearing protection out of fear of losing their situational awareness. As a result, noise-induced hearing loss and tinnitus (ringing in the ears) are the two most common permanent injuries suffered by service members in the US military. Join Research Audiologist Ben Sheffield for an evening examining the impact that hearing loss has on combat operations and the steps that are being taken at our nation’s hospital to eliminate the unfortunate tradeoff that soldiers are often faced with to sacrifice their hearing in order to protect their lives. See first-hand GoPro videos of what it’s like to be a hearing-impaired soldier on the battlefield from a study where infantrymen in the 101st Airborne were equipped with hearing loss simulators that could adjust their hearing between normal and profound deafness while they participated in a combat training exercise. And find out how science and technology are being used to improve upon the standard ear plug to prevent hearing loss from happening in the first place.

Mr. Sheffield is a member of the Audiology and Speech Center at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland . Yet he followed his wife, an adjunct professor in the art department at Cal Poly, back to California and now calls San Luis Obispo home. He holds degrees in Electrical and Mechanical Engineering and he is the principal investigator on two active research protocols examining the impact that hearing loss and/or wearing hearing protection has on the ability of our Warfighters to perform their duties effectively. His past research focused on how adults with cochlear implants are able to combine their new “electrical” hearing with any leftover acoustic hearing to understand speech, particularly in noisy environments, like wine bars.

Where: Luis Wine Bar, 1021 Higuera Street, SLO (must be over age 21)
Date: Tuesday, October 18, 2016
Time: Discussion starts at 6:30pm, come early to get settled and order your beverage. Light appetizers available for purchase, or you may bring your own food. All beverages must be purchased at Luis Wine Bar. Selections include wine, beer, organic sodas, coffee, and tea.
Cost: \$5.00 cover charge

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/ScienceAfterDarkSLO or www.ccstem.org.