

## Early Career Achievement in Health Professions Alumnus

### Jeffery T. Lichtenhan, PhD'06

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**Some student-scientists** go on to become standouts in their fields. Others, such as Jeffery Lichtenhan, stand out almost from the beginning of their training.

When he was earning a bachelor's degree from the Department of Speech-Language-Hearing: Sciences and Disorders at the University of Kansas, the faculty took notice of his considerable knowledge of published research on hearing. After graduating with honors, Dr. Lichtenhan then entered the master's program in Audiology at the KU School of Health Professions.

"It soon became clear to me that Jeff could be a rising star in our field," said Mark Chertoff, professor of hearing and speech, in his nomination letter. "He had the intelligence, creativity and motivation to succeed in graduate school as well as in the audiology and hearing research field."

Dr. Lichtenhan is fulfilling that potential by becoming a recognized researcher in hearing science. And he has done so while compensating for the reading and writing disabilities that resulted from his own hearing loss, which he developed as a child.

After earning a doctorate in neuroscience and statistics from KU in 2006, he completed a fellowship at Harvard Medical School, where he was mentored by world-renowned hearing scientist John J. Guinan Jr., with whom he continues to collaborate on research projects.

Now at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Dr. Lichtenhan has published 26 peer-reviewed articles, three invited articles and one book chapter, and 14 invited podium presentations. Moreover, he has maintained nearly uninterrupted grant funding from the National Institutes of Health for the last 12 years, totaling more than \$2 million.

His contributions to science are diverse, ranging from addressing basic science questions like how the ear works, to studying auditory function in children with autism to designing innovative methods to monitor the treatment of hyperacusis, a condition that increases sensitivity to normal sounds. "Though the work completed in my lab is basic science research, we have a sincere and legitimate goal of improving how clinical work is done," said Dr. Lichtenhan.

For his substantial contributions to the fields of hearing science and audiology, the KU Health Professions Alumni Association is proud to bestow the honor of Early Career Achievement in Health Professions Alumnus to Jeffery T. Lichtenhan, PhD'06.