Dr. Nancy Tye-Murray, Professor in the Washington University (WU) Department of Otolaryngology, strives to help the 35 million Americans suffering from hearing loss communicate more effectively with family and friends. With an exclusive license from the WU Office of Technology Management (OTM), Tye-Murray and colleague Dr. Brent Spehar launched a start-up venture in April 2017 known as customized learning: Exercises for Aural Rehabilitation™, or clEAR™.

clEAR, LLC teaches hearing-loss patients to recognize speech of those they communicate with frequently, such as family, friends, or co-workers. clEAR also aims to improve hearing amidst noise, doing so with games and exercises that are engaging, entertaining, and affordable. clEAR users have the option of training at home, in an audio logical clinic, or in a classroom setting. It’s not the only such training tool available, but one of the aspects of this software that sets it apart from other programs is the ability to practice listening to specific voices.