Personal Vocal Humidifier

Chris Paschall, Ph.D.
Licensing Associate

Emory OTT Breakfast Club
June 2, 2009
Sound familiar?

Look familiar?
More familiar?
Speakers and singers typically drink water to lubricate the mouth and throat.
At Emory, we ask.... WHAT IF?

Dr. Michael Johns

Dr. Adam Klein

What if you could take the shower with you?
Fast Facts – The Device

- Device prevents dryness in larynx and upper aerodigestive tract

- Dryness can affect articulation and vocal fold vibration – improves vocalization and prevents use of compensatory mechanisms that may damage voice over time

- Prototype has been developed; anecdotally, users have reported improved vocal performance (including a Sjögren's patient)
Fast Facts – The Device

- Device can be miniaturized to fit inside a jacket, on a lapel or belt, and can even be attached directly to a microphone.

- Opportunity for consumable component – therapeutic additives to humidified air.

- No patent filed yet (prior art search for “vocal humidifier” yields 8 hits, none of which are relevant).
PROVERBIAL
Fast Facts - The Market

- ~250,000 professional singers in U.S. according to BLS
- ~4000 members in the National Speakers Association
- ~60,000 laryngectomy patients in U.S. with an additional 3000 added per year – laryngectomy patients cannot naturally humidify inspired air
- ~4 million cases of Sjögren's syndrome in U.S.
The Big Market?

American Idol Fans
The Big Market?

People who (may) talk too much
Opportunity for Celebrity Endorsements?

PROVERBIAL