

Dear Colleagues,

I invite you to read the fourth number of the *Journal of Hearing Science* for 2019. The issue starts with a challenging hypothesis paper which, step by step, reinterprets the familiar caloric test of vestibular function. We have all been taught the Bárány model: that when cold or warm water is introduced into the ear canal it produces vestibular responses because of convection currents induced in the horizontal canal. However, according to the novel hypothesis put forward here, that model might need to be revised. In a detailed review of the literature extending back to early last century, this challenging paper builds the case that the vestibular responses evoked by water in the meatus are in fact due to the effect of temperature on the middle ear muscles. We read how a change in temperature causes a change in tension, and hence a pressure change in the inner ear fluids – which, it is argued, is what gives rise to nystagmus and related vestibular effects. I leave it to you to make up your own mind, but it is worth saying that challenging hypotheses like this help the field to progress, and it is for just this reason that the *Journal of Hearing Science* has recently introduced a section specifically devoted to well-argued hypothesis papers. Perhaps you too might like to contribute your own ideas on how hearing science can make progress?



The issue follows with methodological paper on development and standardization of high-frequency word identification test for adults in Gujarati. There are also a few interesting case studies related to various topics in areas of otolaryngology and audiology. As always the issue concludes with reports from some recent conferences.

With kind regards and greetings,

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