

Dear Colleagues,

I invite you to read the final number of J Hear Sci for 2018. The issue starts with two interesting review articles. The first is on an emerging optical method, functional near-infrared spectroscopy (fNIRS), which offers a unique way to probe activity in the human brain non-invasively. The review focuses on how fNIRS can be used to study auditory central processing, and discusses aspects of how measurements can be interpreted. The second review provides fresh perspectives on the mechanics of the middle ear and cochlea made by Helmholtz and Weber-Liel more than a century ago. Combining these old ideas with some recent remarkable findings – including that there are unique pressure-sensing channels in outer hair cells which take the form of a propeller – it makes the interesting speculation that acoustic pressure, or sound, might cause rotation of the propellers and generate a tuned Helmholtz-like resonance.



There are also some papers on patients with chronic suppurative otitis media, mega cisterna magna, and a difficult case of a patient with bilateral chronic otitis media. I would also like to direct your attention to a paper by Thrum and colleagues which investigates the satisfaction of both clinicians and clients in a teleaudiology trial. Telehealth solutions are attracting more and more interest in recent years, and my personal belief is that telehealth is the future of medicine in general. It is therefore important that audiology and otolaryngology also embrace this emerging approach. The Thrum study supports teleaudiology as a promising way forward.

The issue concludes with a report of the 45<sup>th</sup> American Auditory Society's Scientific and Technology Meeting, 1–3 March 2018, Scottsdale, Arizona, USA.

Finally I would like to pass on important information about subscriptions to the Journal of Hearing Science. Until now subscriptions to the printed version of the journal have been free. However, starting next year hard copy subscriptions will now require an annual fee. If you already have a hard copy subscription, or you would like to take up a new one, please contact us to make the necessary arrangements. Of course, the electronic version of the journal will stay open access and free.

With kind regards and greetings,

*Prof. Henryk Skarzynski, M.D., Ph.D., Dr.h.c.multi*