

Dear Colleagues,

The year started with an important meeting, the workshop on Hearing Implants for Older Adults which took place in New York City on 16–18 January, 2014. The aging population is a challenge for professionals in all areas of medicine, but particularly in otolaryngology there is much to do. The ability of older adults to communicate is vital in maintaining their social skills and independence. In the early parts of the twentieth century, people's role in society was mainly determined by manual skill; in today's world one's position is determined mostly by the ability to communicate and absorb information. It is extremely difficult to remain functionally active if, with age, sight or hearing deteriorates. Today, an increasing number of people, especially those entering the older age bracket, have hearing problems. Not only does this make it difficult to communicate, but it also increases the risk of related disorders. For example, elderly people with hearing loss have a higher risk of depression. Fortunately, there are a number of devices that can help solve age-related hearing problems, and recent advances in the field were discussed at the workshop. Given the importance of the topics covered, we have decided to devote part of this issue of the *Journal of Hearing Science* to the workshop. JHS readers will find all the abstracts from the workshop together with an interesting introduction by my distinguished colleague Prof. Christoph von Ilberg.



Other articles in this issue present original research work dealing with otoacoustic emission screening of schoolchildren with Down syndrome, sensorineural hearing loss secondary to bilateral cerebral melanoma, development of a sentence test in the Kannada language, and the detection of auditory processing problems in adults.

With kind regards and greetings,
Prof. Henryk Skarzynski, M.D., Ph.D., Dr.h.c.