

Dear Colleagues,

In the present issue there are two papers related to newborn hearing screening (NHS), particularly that of high-risk children. Nowadays NHS is standard in many countries, but there is still room for improvement. We need more data on what hearing impairments are present, and more reliable diagnostic methods are always valuable. Other articles in this issue present original research dealing with the genetic basis of nonsyndromic sensorineural hearing loss and an interesting case study encountered in my clinic. The issue concludes with reports from the meetings from the end of 2013 and the beginning of 2014.

Early this year some very interesting international meetings in otology and audiology took place. One of them focused on summarising our current knowledge of surgery on the stapes in cases of otosclerosis. The introduction of new technology in treating this disease is a good example of the considerable progress now being made in otosurgery. Another important scientific meeting was the World Audiology Congress in Brisbane, Australia. During this meeting, with its global-wide attendance, it was possible to assess the current state of audiology in different regions of the world.

Another notable meeting was devoted to the 150th anniversary of the *Archive fur Ohrenheilunde* (now published as the *European Archives of Oto-Rhino-Laryngology*). One of the most cited papers in that journal was work by D.T. Kemp in which distortion product otoacoustic emissions were described for the first time. The meeting was full of many presentations relating to the history of European otorhinolaryngology.

I encourage you to read the current number and invite you to make JHS a regular item on your reading list.



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