

Dear Colleagues,

The present issue starts with a topic I feel especially close to – the treatment of partial deafness, i.e. sloping hearing loss. The idea behind partial deafness treatment (PDT) is to complement existing acoustic hearing at low frequencies with electrical stimulation from a cochlear implant at higher ones (PDT-EC). Our first experience with such an approach began 17 years ago, and results were presented at the 5th ESPCI congress in Antwerp and EUFOS in Berlin [1]. I and my team encountered patients who had residual hearing but who didn't benefit from hearing aids. The only solution was to use a cochlear implant, but we didn't want them to lose their remaining natural hearing. Thanks to my dedicated team we succeeded. The first surgery in the world with such a patient was



performed in July 2002, and it was the first time that a cochlear implant had been inserted in a way that hearing was preserved [2]. In the very interesting paper by Moran et al. in this issue of JHS a related finding is set out: results from patients with some hearing who were fitted with a standard cochlear implant but in this case no attempt at electroacoustic stimulation was made. The results of Moran et al. are important because it is not always possible to preserve acoustic hearing. The subject of cochlear implants is followed with a more surgical topic, a paper on congenitally deaf children with isolated large vestibular aqueduct. Other articles in this issue present original research dealing with the electrophysiologic assessment of auditory function in children with autism and attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder, temporal processing in musicians, and self-reported tinnitus handicap in individuals with auditory neuropathy spectrum disorder.

We have passed the middle of the year – the busiest time for conferences. One of this year's most prominent events was the 13th International Conference on Cochlear Implants and other Implantable Auditory Technologies. This huge biennial meeting – it gathers around 1000 specialists – covers all topics related to implantable hearing devices. A report can be found in this issue of JHS. There are also reports from the 20th Annual Meeting of the Organization for Human Brain Mapping, and on the 13th Danube International Otorhinolaryngological Congress. 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. multi

1. Skarzynski H. Ten years experience with a new strategy of Partial Deafness Treatment. *Journal of Hearing Science*, 2012; 2(2) 11–8.
2. Skarzynski H, Lorens A, Piotrowska A. A new method of partial deafness treatment. *Med Sci Monit*, 2003; 9(4): CS20–4.