

Dear Colleagues,

I invite you to peruse the last number of the *Journal of Hearing Science* for 2014. In this issue you will find papers on otoacoustic emissions, vestibular evoked myogenic potentials, natural and synthetic materials for improving hearing, and on auditory memory and sequencing abilities. In addition, there is a paper related to the screening of schoolchildren's hearing which I particularly encourage you to read. The core message of the paper is that universal screening programs should be implemented not only for newborns but also for older children. Such an idea was put forward in two scientific consensuses signed in 2011 and published in previous issues of *Journal of Hearing Science* [1,2].

In this issue you will also find reports of very interesting conferences: the 13th Hearing and Structure Preservation Workshop, the 27th Congress of the Union of the European Phoniaticians, and the 6th World Congress on Mental Health and Deafness ("Pathways to rights"). The huge spread of topics of these meetings – from hearing and speech to psychology – shows how important hearing ability is for communicating in today's society.

Please read the current number, and I am confident JHS will become 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, Piotrowska A, Szaflik J, Luxon L, Zehnhoff-Dinnesen A, Kaufmann-Meyer M, Kamyk P, Skarzynski PH. European consensus statement on hearing, vision, and speech screening in pre-school and school-age children. *J Hear Sci*, 2011; 1(2): 89–90.
2. Skarzynski H, Piotrowska A, Kamyk P, Czupryniak A, Saniewska-Kilim A, Włodarczyk A, Kochanek K, Skarzynski PH. EU Council Conclusion on early detection and treatment of communication disorders in children, including the use of e-health tools and innovative solutions. *J Hear Sci*, 2012; 2(1): 49–50.