

Dear Colleagues,

I invite you to read the last number of the *Journal of Hearing Science* for this year. The past year has been full of events of major importance for the development of hearing science. At least 18 major international conferences took place and several monographs and source works were published. Pleasingly, many of our journal's authors took an active part in the formation of this output. We try to keep readers of the *Journal of Hearing Science* up to date with selected results of these authors' work, and I especially want to encourage you to read the review article by Coppens and colleagues in this issue about hearing disorders in people with Down syndrome. Other articles in this issue present original research work dealing with genetics, otology, and psychology. The second part of the extended abstracts of the 10th EFAS (European Federation of Audiology Societies) Congress, also in this issue, provides a comprehensive outline of work on cochlear implants. Finally, the issue contains useful summaries of some important meetings held earlier this year.

I wish to thank all those who contributed to the first year of JHS. The journal published more than 40 papers and extended abstracts, with authors coming from more than 20 countries around the globe. This is indeed a promising start for a new journal. I hope to maintain these contacts and attract new authors and contributors.



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