

Dear colleagues,

I invite you to read the first number of the *Journal of Hearing Science* for 2021. The issue starts with a review paper on the design and development of the Vibrant Soundbridge (VSB, Med-El, Innsbruck, Austria). Over the years several types of implantable middle ear devices which compensate for hearing loss have been developed. The VSB is one such device which is now in common use. Its operation is based on an actively vibrating part, a so-called floating mass transducer, which is directly coupled to the ossicles within the middle ear. The review covers aspects of the design and development of the system over the last 25 years.

The research papers are devoted to diverse topics: the reliability of the Arabic version of the Hyperacusis Questionnaire, auditory stream segregation in individuals with sensorineural hearing loss, the outcomes of cochlear implantation in prelingual hearing impaired children, and electrophysiological assessment of hearing in individuals with neurofibromatosis Type 1.

The research papers also include an interesting modeling paper on how an array of discrete resonators, coupled by fluid, can reproduce the dynamics of click-evoked otoacoustic emissions.

The issue concludes with two case studies: one on auditory evaluation of hearing loss in an infant with congenital Zika syndrome and another on bilateral sudden mixed hearing loss.



With kind regards and greetings,

Prof. Henryk Skarzynski, M.D., Ph.D., Dr.h.c.multi

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