

Dear colleagues,

I invite you to read the second number of the *Journal of Hearing Science* for 2021. The issue starts with two review papers, one devoted to how deaf children with cochlear implants develop a theory of mind – that is, how they model and react to other people as thinking beings – and the second to endoscopy of the cerebello-pontine angle, which is important for surgical treatment of certain hearing problems. The next interesting paper belongs to a special section of our journal devoted to hypothesis papers, where contentious areas of auditory research are discussed. This paper deals with ‘type C’ tympanograms, which occur when a tympanometer displays a negative middle ear pressure. Conventionally, this is interpreted as gas absorption in the middle ear cavity, but as the title of this challenging paper suggests, this cannot always be the case, and perhaps we are seeing the result of contraction of the middle ear muscles. No doubt this paper will provoke lively discussion.



At this point I would like to encourage our field to submit more hypothesis-style papers, for I believe there is an important role for scientific debate as well as experimental investigation. At least in our disciplines of otorhinolaryngology and audiology there is a scarcity of letters to the editor and hypothesis papers. In my view, such pieces make important contributions to scientific progress and should be encouraged.

The issue follows with research papers related to some musical aspects of hearing and also to an evaluation of tinnitus patients and what therapy might be most appropriate. The issue concludes with papers related to vestibular potentials in migraine patients and a case study of evaluation of speech in a case with dysarthria. The papers related to music are especially close to my heart as for the seventh time we are organizing the International Music Festival for Children, Youths, and Adults with Hearing Disorders called “Beats of Cochlea” (<https://festiwal.ifps.org.pl/en/>). One part of it will be an International Scientific Conference “Music in Human Auditory Development” and various workshops. It will conclude with a concert that will feature performances by people from Poland and elsewhere, as well as groups of musicians, music therapists, and workshop instructors. The festival will be broadcast online, and I invite you to tune in between the 12th and 15th of July. Afterwards, a recording of the concert will also be made available for those who were unable to listen to it live.

With kind regards and greetings,

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

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