

Dear Colleagues,

As we approach the end of another year, the *Journal of Hearing Science* is pleased to present a diverse array of papers in our December issue which highlight the dynamic and multidisciplinary nature of the journal. The contributions span from a review of the clinical applications of miRNA biomarkers in laryngeal squamous cell carcinoma, through some original research papers, to a case study of DNFB77 nonsyndromic hearing impairment, the first such case diagnosed in Greece.

Our first original article examines the relation between COVID-19 infection and the functioning of the human auditory system. Currently, despite some novel variants of the virus, it seems that the main impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is behind us. Nevertheless, we still know relatively little about the virus and, scientifically, there is still much to be learnt about its ramifications for the human organism. The approach described here – using auditory brainstem responses and otoacoustic emissions – might be a good way to detect changes that might be hard to spot with behavioral measures. In any case, the present study tends to confirm that COVID-19 appears to have no long-term impact on the auditory system.

Other contributions relate to the development of a pitch pattern test based on vowels; exploration of which items are most important in the SSQ-P scale (*Speech, Spatial and Qualities of Hearing Scale for Parents*); brain asymmetry and cognitive processes in children who have hearing asymmetry; and finally a study of nasal resonance and its normative values.

We extend heart-felt gratitude to all our authors and reviewers for their outstanding contributions to the *Journal of Hearing Science* throughout the year.



With kind regards and greetings,

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