

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the latest issue of the *Journal of Hearing Science*. This issue presents a collection of papers that exemplify the breadth and depth of contemporary hearing science, from innovative hypotheses to comprehensive reviews and insightful original research.

We begin with a compelling hypothesis paper that proposes a novel method for integrating speech testing into hearing screening programs for young children. As early detection of hearing impairments and delays in speech development is crucial, this method could significantly enhance the accuracy and efficacy of screening programs, ensuring that children receive the support they need at the earliest possible stage.

Our review paper on the effects of cochlear implantation on the development of speech in children with Usher syndrome provides a thorough examination of existing research on the topic. Usher syndrome, a complex genetic condition that affects both hearing and vision, poses unique challenges. This review highlights the critical importance of early intervention with bilateral cochlear implantation in children with profound to severe hearing loss in promoting optimal speech development. The text offers valuable insights for clinicians and researchers alike. This issue also features two original research articles that delve into diverse aspects of auditory science. The first explores how musicians' self-assessment of their musical abilities correlates with their auditory processing skills. The second original article presents a review of a substantial number of cases involving major salivary gland tumors from one hospital.

We hope this issue stimulates further research and discussion among our readers, fostering a deeper understanding of the complexities of hearing science and its practical applications. As always, we welcome your feedback and look forward to your contributions in future editions.

With kind regards and greetings,

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

