

Dear Colleagues,

I invite you to read the third number of the *Journal of Hearing Science (J Hear Sci)* for 2019. The issue starts with two review papers on important subjects in audiological practice. The first deals with the elusive problem of treating tinnitus, and here the authors review the wide-ranging work that has been done over the years on tinnitus suppression using electrical stimulation. The authors' focus is on seeing whether invasive or non-invasive electrical stimulation is better in suppressing tinnitus. The second review deals with the problem of conductive hearing loss in newborns and how its presence can affect the results of universal newborn hearing screening programs, which are essentially set up to detect sensorineural hearing loss. The review concludes that more attention needs to be paid to identifying and dealing with conductive hearing loss in newborns.



The third paper in this issue appears in a new section of *J Hear Sci* which we have decided to introduce – hypothesis papers. In creating this new section, we believe that a strong, well-argued hypothesis is useful in challenging established ideas and pointing the way forward to potentially fruitful new directions in hearing science. The paper you will find in this issue speculates on the origin of our remarkable musical sense, and sets out an interesting scheme whereby musical ratios are perceived in the ear, not, as conventionally understood, in the brain. The paper brings together a range of evidence to support its case, and relies on the geometric arrangement of outer hair cells in the cochlea to create a set of micromechanical resonances which carry frequency ratios of high musical significance. I invite you to read this stimulating paper and make up your own mind.

This issue also contains regular research papers, one on the development and standardization of high frequency word lists in Nepali, and on the variability of high-frequency distortion product otoacoustic emissions.

We conclude with reports from four recent congresses: the 12th international Tinnitus Conference and 3rd Cross-Strait Tinnitus Seminar in Taiwan, the 5th Congress of European ORL–Head & Neck Surgery in Belgium, the 16th Symposium on Cochlear Implants in Children in the USA, and finally the 13th Pan-European Voice Conference in Denmark.

With kind regards and greetings,

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