

Dear Colleagues,

As we close out another transformative year in hearing research, we are delighted to present an issue that embodies innovation, clinical insight, and interdisciplinary collaboration. Our opening hypothesis paper, “Towards a unified method of assessing early auditory development after cochlear implantation: Measuring relative delay,” emphasizes the critical need for early auditory stimulation – ideally before 12 months – in children with profound sensorineural hearing loss. By reviewing various approaches to the LittleEARS auditory questionnaire and identifying challenges related to variability and intervention age, the paper introduces a novel “relative delay” metric designed to facilitate meaningful comparisons across studies and strengthen meta-analytical approaches in evidence-based practice.



This issue also features a series of original research papers that deepen our understanding of auditory function in diverse populations. One study explores extended high-frequency thresholds, auditory figure–ground discrimination, and working memory in females with polycystic ovary syndrome. Other research examines the impact of fetal hemoglobin levels on auditory discrimination in individuals with sickle cell anemia, investigates whether impeded biomechanics can influence hearing preservation in cochlear implant recipients, and evaluates the efficacy of a smartphone-based screening application for the early identification of hearing loss in school-children.

Rounding out our publication are insightful reports from two major international conferences: the 36th World Congress of Audiology in Paris and the 7th Congress of the Confederation of European ORL-HNS in Dublin.

With kind regards and greetings,

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