

Dear Colleagues,

This third issue of the *Journal of Hearing Science* in 2025 brings together papers that show how deeply hearing and balance disorders are embedded in people's bodies, identities, social worlds, and health systems. From chronic rhinosinusitis and nasal polyps, through pediatric cochlear implantation and adult speech in noise testing, to music perception in cochlear implant users and the lived experience of tinnitus in veterans, the contributions span the path from pathology and surgical outcomes to everyday communication and participation.



An important contribution is the qualitative study on the lived experience of tinnitus in UK military veterans. Tinnitus is more prevalent among them than in the general population, and this study gives voice to those who live with ongoing internal sound. Veterans describe tinnitus as a constant presence that strains mental health, disrupts sleep, complicates communication, and sometimes leads to withdrawal. While some find ways to cope – such as through sound therapy, routines, and peer support – many still struggle to access effective help. More broadly, tinnitus is one of the most common and complex symptoms in audiology and otology. Its impact ranges from a mild background noise to a dominating experience that shapes mood and attention, all of which means that good care must combine audiological assessment with attention to mental health, effective coping strategies, and the whole context of a person's life.

The issue concludes with a report from the 17th Congress of the European Federation of Audiology Societies (EFAS), held from 14 to 17 May 2025 in Vienna, Austria. EFAS meetings help connect researchers, clinicians, and policy makers across Europe and beyond. The report offers a concise overview of new evidence, current debates, and emerging directions in diagnostics, intervention strategies, hearing care delivery, and professional education.

We hope this issue of the *Journal of Hearing Science* will support your clinical work and research and encourage collaboration across disciplines and borders in the service of people living with hearing and balance disorders.

With kind regards and greetings,

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