

Dear Colleagues,

This first issue of the *Journal of Hearing Science (J Hear Sci)* in 2026 encompasses studies that reflect important aspects of contemporary hearing healthcare: from early identification and culturally adapted assessment tools, through therapeutic intervention and epidemiological monitoring, to communication accessibility in everyday clinical settings.

A common theme across these contributions is the need to make hearing care more precise, inclusive, and responsive to real-world needs. A second, equally important theme is standardization. Hearing science needs methods and tools that can function reliably across languages, healthcare systems, and clinical settings, allowing results to be compared, shared, and built upon. Such comparability is essential if we are to expand collective knowledge and translate research findings into better care for patients.

A conference report from the 2nd Eletroescuta Experience in São Paulo further emphasizes the value of international exchange and shared professional experience.

I hope this issue of JHS will inspire further research, clinical reflection, and international collaboration – all aimed at improving diagnosis, treatment, and accessibility for people with hearing and communication difficulties.



With kind regards and greetings,

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