

Dear Colleagues,

I invite you to read the first number of the *Journal of Hearing Science* for 2016. The issue contains two interesting review papers. The first is devoted to speech-evoked auditory brainstem responses (Speech-ABR) which has become an emerging focus for research. The idea is to present stimuli that more closely resemble the real-life sounds used for communication (i.e., speech) instead of the artificial sounds (e.g. clicks) typically used. It is hoped that such an approach might produce more clinically meaningful results. The second review paper takes a broad perspective and examines the physical basis of hearing in a diverse group of animals, namely the amphibians. The conclusion is that hearing in frogs may have more in common with human hearing than has currently been appreciated. It is suggested that both these animal species employ similar physical principles, a speculation that could help progress in our field.



The issue concludes with reports from recent conferences. As usual one of the first big meetings of the year is the Midwinter Meeting of the Association for Research in Otolaryngology (ARO). This year's meeting was in large part devoted to genetics and molecular biology, an interesting trend in many disciplines related to hearing. Other reports are of the 6th Emirates Otorhinolaryngology and Communication Disorders Congress and the American Auditory Society Scientific and Technology Meeting.

With kind regards and greetings,
Prof. Henryk Skarzynski, M.D., Ph.D., Dr.h.c.multi