



This is an eclectic issue with topics ranging from regeneration of sensory hair cells of the ear to the acoustics of my favorite instrument, the violin.

But before discussing the articles in the issue, I do want to mention that we are looking for a new *Acoustics Today* (*AT*) intern to join us for a year of being part of the print and Web presence of *AT*.

You may recall that our first *AT* intern, Laura Kloepper, worked on helping *AT* (and ASA) move into social media in a big way. Our current intern, Andrew (Pi) Pyzdek, is doing a series of articles for the *AT* Web page on various interesting areas of acoustics that are very much aimed at a lay audience (<http://goo.gl/Fg0bDJ>). You can find out more about being an *AT* intern at <http://goo.gl/tiKPP0>. The specific responsibility for each *AT* intern varies and depends on the interests of the individual and the needs of the magazine. I'm very glad to explore ideas that anyone might want to propose.

One of the real contributions of ASA is in the education of future acousticians and the public about our disciplines. The fall 2015 issue of *AT* had an article about overall education projects of the society (<http://goo.gl/IEUthG>). This issue has an article on new and very interesting approaches to overall education, with specific examples using acoustics but which are applicable to most any discipline. Thus, this article written by John Buck, Kathleen Wage, and Jill Nelson might be shared with a far broader audience than just ASA members.

In the next article, Colin Gough shares his abiding interest, and hobby, on the acoustics of violins. Colin points out that even experts sometimes cannot differentiate between the

sounds of some of the oldest and rarest instruments and new instruments. Colin takes advantage of multimedia, available on the *AT* Web site, to illustrate acoustics and the sounds produced by violins.

Ewa Jacewicz and Robert Fox explore the variation in sounds in a very different way in a discussion of regionally accented speech. This paper came out of a wonderful presentation that Ewa and Robert made at a recent ASA meeting. It provides substantial insight into the variation in speech around the United States and, again, takes advantage of multimedia to illustrate how speech varies.

The final article moves from sound production to sound reception. One of the major health issues in the United States and around the world is hearing loss, and much of this loss results from damage to the sensory hair cells of the inner ear. Becky Lewis, Jenny Stone, and Edwin Rubel provide great insight into recent studies that are trying to figure out methods to regenerate hair cells in the mammalian ear.

The issue also has a number of other articles of interest. Regrettably, ASA has lost several distinguished members in the past months and this issue thus includes four obituaries. However, unlike "standard" obituaries, the goal of *AT* is to include material that gives insight into the scholarly contributions of very interesting people. Thus, although most people tend to skip obituaries, I encourage you to look at those published here for interesting information about various areas of acoustics.

As always, I am pleased to hear about ideas for future articles for *Acoustics Today*. Please drop me an email with ideas (apopper@umd.edu) and I'll get back to you quickly.