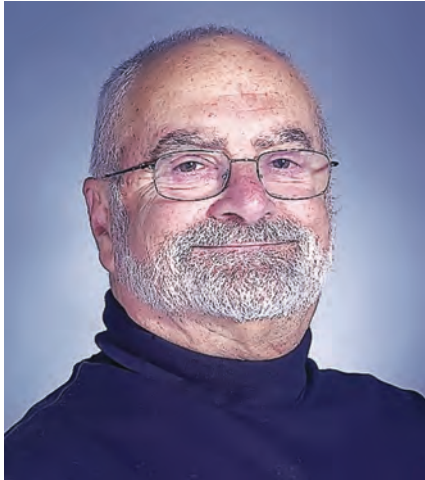


FROM THE EDITOR

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This issue of *Acoustics Today* is the first time that all the articles were derived from the presentations of a special session of an Acoustical Society of America meeting. The 162nd meeting of the Society took place in San Diego, California this year and the special session was titled *Demystifying Standards*. It was organized by Paul Schomer and Susan Blaeser, who are also the guest editors of this issue. The authors of the articles were the presenters at the session. My congratulations go to Paul and Susan—first, for organizing the session and second, for their ability to convince the presenters to rewrite their presentations for a magazine format. The articles are excellent. We hope that members of the Society will decide to join many of their colleagues and volunteer for standards work. If you like meaningful problems to solve that come to closure, standards might be just the thing for you.

FROM THE GUEST EDITORS

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The Acoustical Society of America (ASA) Committee on Standards (ASACOS) sponsored a special interdisciplinary session at the 162nd Meeting of the Society in San Diego entitled *Demystifying Standards*. The goal of this session was to bring together a number of invited papers that would demonstrate the technical breadth of the ASA

Standards Program and its value to stakeholders including those from industry, government, consultants, and others. We wanted to explain the importance of standards, not only within the U.S., but internationally. Finally, we wanted to highlight the role of ASA in enabling and facilitating the development of both American National Standards



and International Standards related to acoustics and vibration. Papers presented in the session are adapted here so that they reach a wider audience.

The ASA Standards Program serves the country and is directed at both the members of the Acoustical Society and society in general. ASA has been involved in standards development virtually since the inception of the Society and ASA's members have been leaders in this process at the national and international levels. Standards are the ultimate method to "promote the practical application of acoustics," which is one of the stated purposes of the ASA. Standards represent the distillation of years of research and practical experience. Many standards users are not acousticians but they are able to benefit from the work of ASA members (and others) by choosing to use voluntary consensus standards to support their decisions.

ASA's presence in the standards development community is significant compared to other organizations of its type and size. This is a reflection of the continuous support for the standards program demonstrated by ASA's Executive Council through the years.

The key strength of the ASA Standards Program is its more than 500 volunteers. The latest additions to the Standards Program are our National Subcommittee on animal bioacoustics and our International Subcommittee on underwater acoustics. With these, our Standards Program serves nearly all the technical areas of ASA. We hope that you will enjoy reading these papers written by standards volunteers (and staff) and that you will be moved to join us to help make this Program something that is of value to you.



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