

## From the President

Peggy Nelson



As I write this article, fall has arrived in my home state of Minnesota. The State Fair has passed, and school has begun. Although you're reading this issue as we ease into winter, I'm writing it full of positive energy and anticipation for the fall season ahead. Among the topics on my mind are

- Our second cohort of undergraduate interns (SURIEA 2.0; see [acousticalsociety.org/suriea](https://acousticalsociety.org/suriea)) have ended their summer internships and have gone back to school or jobs enriched by the experiences they had with their mentors.
- We have an exciting Society conference in Nashville, Tennessee, with an impressive number of presentations (>950) on the program. A new partially hybrid conference mode is being tested and considered as we move ahead to the future of scientific conferences. We will try that again in Chicago, Illinois. We hope that you will make your voice heard to help shape the future of the Society and our meetings.
- Acoustics is in the news, demonstrating that our members are having a wide impact on science and society. Here are two examples.
  - Members such as Judy Dubno and Larry Humes have had an impact on public policy, such as this recent ruling opening up hearing aid access (see [bit.ly/3ACkQwy](https://bit.ly/3ACkQwy)).
  - Teams from Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, with Kent Gee in the lead are measuring the sound levels of rocket launches, providing information about how "astronomically loud" rocket launches really are (see [bit.ly/3x1gwGq](https://bit.ly/3x1gwGq)).

All this is to say that I am exceptionally proud to be serving as the president of the Acoustical Society of America (ASA), and I'm extremely excited for the future.

Among the most exciting news in the Society is the formation of the ASA new Fund to Promote Inclusive Acoustics. This fund supports the inclusion and advancement of those who have been underrepresented in acoustics. The fund, approved by the Executive Council earlier this year, will support the Society's efforts to expand and diversify our membership and the discipline

through outreach activities (such as SURIEA and other ideas to come) and through internal monitoring of barriers that prevent full inclusion of marginalized members. We're extremely proud of this bold move, and I encourage all members to consider two things: donating to the fund and bringing your new ideas for its use. Please see the announcement at [acousticalsociety.org/foundation-fund](https://acousticalsociety.org/foundation-fund).

We're also planning for the year ahead. Challenges will remain, no doubt, including stresses on our annual budget during times of likely inflationary forces. We're looking ahead to some possible long-term changes to our Society meetings, including, perhaps, the bold move of reducing the number of costly Society socials and lunches. The Executive Council is also considering a trial of a fully remote meeting, planned well in advance, that could increase access to those who cannot attend in person. We are learning, along with many other societies, that hybrid meetings are exceptionally challenging and frustrating. Thus, alongside our Nashville and Chicago trials of a few hybrid meeting sessions, we are considering this fully remote conference option, possibly as early as fall 2024. Please stay engaged and let us know your thoughts on such a trial.

We also recognize that when we choose a location for our in-person meetings there are political, economic, and social forces that affect our members' decisions about attending. This has come up around the Nashville meeting in particular. Our officers, Executive Council, and headquarters are considering these forces as we plan ahead. We may not be able to respond to every political issue that arises (who could have predicted these politically polarizing issues just a few short years ago?), but we must keep our members' safety paramount. We will continue to discuss these core values over the coming months as we plan ahead.

I look forward to seeing you again in person in Chicago (May 2023) where we will hold a postmeeting satellite workshop on diversity and inclusion for a group of related societies. Please watch for more announcements about this and join us if you are able. As always, I hope to see you on a webinar, at a committee meeting, and again in person soon. Let me know what you think we can do together.