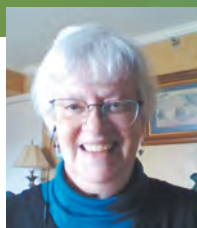


## From the President

---

Peggy Nelson



It was terrific seeing so many of you at the Acoustical Society of America (ASA) meeting in Nashville! Just as soon as the meeting was over, we continued planning for a fabulous meeting in Chicago. There's no substitute for

seeing one another, exchanging technical information, and celebrating our awardees. I do hope that you'll be there in Chicago and that many of you are planning to make the trip Down Under for the joint meeting in Sydney in December 2023. Sydney promises to be an exciting venue. I hope you're considering that trip. I've been watching and planning for my first visit to Sydney, checking out information from a recent article in *The New York Times* (see [bit.ly/3Gd0EWa](https://bit.ly/3Gd0EWa)). We have waited a long time for both of these meetings! Each was postponed during the early days of Covid, so it's a great relief to see them come to fruition.

That said, I am also proud to announce that we have decided to proceed with a trial fully virtual meeting for Fall 2024. Representatives of the Executive Council (EC), Technical Council, and Student Council have been discussing this idea for months, and the EC voted to approve it. This will be a one-time trial of a fully virtual meeting that is planned well in advance. The reasons to hold such a meeting are many, but the primary motivation is *access*. We have thousands of members who do not, or cannot, attend our meetings in person. For some, the barrier is cost; for others, it is health or travel restrictions; whereas for many members, it is time restrictions or family obligations. Whatever the reason, we recognize that we have many people who log on to our virtual events who do not attend the in-person meetings. The plan is to try this virtual meeting experiment and see if it is

something that we want to do from time to time. Perhaps we will find that many people who are not otherwise able to present their work at an ASA meeting will present at this virtual conference. On the other hand, perhaps we will say "never again." The Society leadership is open to all options.

We hope you will plan ahead for the Fall 2024 virtual meeting and be a part of it. Above all, please spread the word to your colleagues and students who do not often attend in person. Perhaps it will be a good time for people from your laboratory or company to present their work. Multiple team members from your business or industry (who otherwise might not be able to attend) can be encouraged to present. A major goal in planning is to not only ensure a great experience in presenting and hearing papers but to also ensure that the virtual meeting is filled with opportunities for virtual networking.

There are many other things we are considering with regard to the virtual meeting. For example, we are tentatively planning on a shorter meeting rather than re-creating the typical five-day in-person meeting. We also intend to avoid conflicts with major holidays. And, of course, the total cost of attending the meeting will be lower.

As we enter 2023, I am still reminded that I am exceptionally proud to be serving as the president of the ASA and I am extremely excited for the future.

I look forward to seeing you again in person soon. 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.

---

## From the Editor, Continued from Page 8

interesting and challenging. And, as I've mentioned in the past, if other TCs have similar challenges, we would be more than pleased to include information about them in *AT*. Just contact me well in advance of the challenge.

We conclude with one of a continuing series of essays by L. Keeta Jones, ASA Education and Outreach Coordinator. In this essay, Keeta shares insights into how to prepare a

lay language paper about one's scholarly activities to help communicate work with reporters, teachers, and others. As Keeta points out, effective communication to a lay audience, such as about work presented at an ASA meeting, is very useful and very important. Her essay provides tips on helping make the lay paper interesting to a wide audience and attract interest in one's work. For other articles in *AT* on science communications, see [bit.ly/ATC-Communications](https://bit.ly/ATC-Communications).