

## From the President

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Peggy Nelson



Greetings one last time to my acoustics family. When you read this, the long-awaited Chicago, Illinois, meeting will be done, Stan Dosso will be the new president, and we will be making all our arrangements to gather in Sydney, Australia. Exciting times continue in the Acoustical Society of America (ASA).

This, my last president's column, is a chance for me to do something we all might consider doing: I'm taking a moment to look back and forward at the same time. What a couple of years it has been! We as individuals and we as a Society have faced challenges we never could have anticipated. I am so grateful for the leadership of the Executive Council and officers of the Society, and I am beyond grateful for the incredible ASA staff at headquarters. Together we have not only kept the ship afloat, but we are moving it in positive directions.

We have put our strategic plan into action, despite global conditions that were entirely unexpected. One of the goals of our last strategic plan was to engage members outside the meetings. Another goal was to identify and promote emerging scientific and technical areas. We have had some terrific success in both. Our webinars reach 100-200 people each session, even though we had not seriously considered this possibility before 2020. Many of these participants are nonmembers from around the world. Check out the details at [acousticalsociety.org/asa-webinar-series](https://acousticalsociety.org/asa-webinar-series) if you have not already done so. I am grateful to Linda Polka for her excellent leadership in this area.

We have proceeded with another of our strategic goals as well, to better engage our practitioners and industry members. We are very pleased to have established a new ad hoc committee, the Committee of Practitioners and Industry (CoIP) headed by Derrick Knight. The committee has done great work in giving visibility to those who work as practitioners in the acoustics field. Please join them in our efforts to strengthen the voices of practitioners who have been an integral part of our Society since its inception.

As always, the excellence of the science and practice of acoustics is at the heart of what we do. We are very proud of the publications team who have steadily improved the quality of our journals. As measured by the number of submissions, the number of downloads, and the all-important *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* (JASA) two-year impact factor (approaching 2.5!), our journals are a credit to the Society.

Although there is still much to do, we have also grown our commitment to diversity, access, inclusion, and belonging in multiple ways. We are improving the accessibility at meetings for those with hearing loss by promoting live captioning of sessions and events. We have experimented with hybrid meetings and will proceed with a one-time trial of a fully virtual meeting for fall 2024, potentially improving access for many who are unable to attend meetings in person. We hope you and your team are already planning on ways you can be engaged in this experiment.

We are putting our funds into action as well. The Acoustical Society Foundation Board has established the Fund to Promote Inclusive Acoustics to support the inclusion and advancement of those who have been underrepresented in acoustics and in the ASA. We have expanded giving opportunities for the James E. West Minority Fellowship Fund (supporting minority students in their pursuit of graduate-level degrees in acoustics) and are building the Campaign for Early Career Leadership (supporting Early Career Leadership Fellows). These funds are at work promoting activities that are broadening access to acoustics for people who have been historically underrepresented.

We have enrolled our third cohort of undergraduate students in the Summer Undergraduate Research or Internship Experience in Acoustics (SURIEA 3.0!; see <https://acousticalsociety.org/suriea>), and we are sponsoring affinity group meetings during each ASA conference. All this work is building on the excellent work of the Committee to Improve Racial Diversity and Inclusivity (CIRDI) and Member Engagement. If you would like to be more involved with member engagement, please contact the new committee chair, Kim Riegel ([riegelk@farmingdale.edu](mailto:riegelk@farmingdale.edu)).

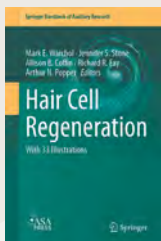
We have focused in recent years on getting our ASA fiscal household in order as well. With the leadership of Treasurer Judy Dubno, Finance Director Mike McGovern, and everyone at headquarters, we have improved our fiscal systems and are making important strides toward balancing our budget. There may be a few painful decisions ahead, but I am confident that we are on the right road. Thanks to our Investments Committee, we have a healthy reserve fund even in light of recent economic trends. Together with the Executive Council and our Finance Committee, we are thinking strategically rather than reactively. Our 2023 budget is a strong step in the right direction.

It is no wonder that I have been proud to help steer this important society as president. Our leadership and our membership are exemplary. We rely on each of you as well. If you are not already a full member of the Society, please do so by linking to [acousticalsociety.org/asa-membership](https://acousticalsociety.org/asa-membership). Full membership will allow you to vote and to determine the future priorities of the Society. It's important work, and I hope you will consider it.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as ASA President. As always, I hope to see you on a webinar, at a committee meeting, and in person soon. Let me know what you think we can do together. I will pass the information along to our new president, Stan Dosso.

## Book Announcement | ASA Press

ASA Press is a meritorious imprint of the Acoustical Society of America in collaboration with Springer International Publishing. All new books that are published with the ASA Press imprint will be announced in *Acoustics Today*. Individuals who have ideas for books should feel free to contact the ASA, [asa@acousticalsociety.org](mailto:asa@acousticalsociety.org), to discuss their ideas.



### Hair Cell Regeneration

**Editors:** Mark E. Warchol, Jennifer S. Stone, Allison B. Coffin, Arthur N. Popper, Richard R. Fay

- Delivers a comprehensive understanding of the status of hair cell regeneration research
- Emphasizes prospective views of the various facets of regeneration research
- Includes coverage of studies that have applied gene and drug therapy to promote regeneration in mammals



### Soundscapes: Humans and Their Acoustic Environment

**Editors:** Brigitte Schulte-Fortkamp, André Fiebig, Joseph A. Sisneros, Arthur N. Popper, Richard R. Fay

- Presents latest developments in soundscape theory and practice
- Combines smart growth concepts, urban design and soundscape for the first-time
- Highlights the applicability of soundscape to solve everyday noise problems in living areas

Find out more about *Hair Cell Regeneration* at  
[link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-20661-0](https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-20661-0)

Find out more about *Soundscapes: Humans and Their Acoustic Environment* at  
[link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-22779-0](https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-22779-0)