

## Editorial

This first issue of the Journal of the Association for Research in Otolaryngology (JARO) represents another step in the maturation of the ARO as a scientific society. Because of the rapid growth of the Society and its annual meeting, the ARO is now a principal international vehicle for communicating scientific results in the disciplines related to otolaryngology and communication sciences. JARO gives the Association's membership an additional instrument for scientific communication, through which the latest in research results in all areas of interest to ARO members can be presented. It is important that JARO is owned and controlled by the Society, so its development and its emphasis are determined by the needs of the ARO, and not those of a publisher or an editorial board. Consistent with this philosophy, the copyright to material published in JARO is retained by the Society.

When the idea of publishing a journal seemed feasible to the officers of the ARO, president Edwin Rubel appointed a Publications Committee, headed by Arthur Popper and Gerald Popelka, to consider whether to proceed with a journal. This committee unanimously recommended the creation of a small, high-quality research journal owned by the ARO, and the recommendation was overwhelmingly approved by a vote of the membership. The rationale for creating a new journal was twofold: first, journal publication is increasingly seen as an appropriate focus for scientific societies; second, by providing a high-quality journal, a society can "strongly influence the scientific scope of its research area" and "enhance the impact of the society on its community and its science" (from the Report of the ARO Ad Hoc Committee on Publications). With this recommendation in hand, president Richard Chole negotiated a contract for production of the journal with the publisher Springer-Verlag and appointed the people necessary to put the plan into action. This first issue represents the culmination of this program. The guiding principles for JARO are those stated in the original report of the Ad Hoc Publication Committee, mainly that the journal should be a high-quality, peer-reviewed publication that is broadly representative of the ARO itself.

JARO will accept manuscripts describing original experimental and theoretical studies of evolution, development, structure, function, etiology, and intervention related to the organs of hearing, balance, and the chemical senses. The aim is to provide a place where research results from the whole range of disciplines represented in the ARO can be found. We expect to publish results obtained using approaches ranging from molecular biology to physiology and behavior, as the papers contained in this inaugural issue illustrate. Clinical and methods papers which contain substantial new results of an experimental nature are welcome. However, we will not accept papers of a primarily clinical nature, such as case studies, nor will the journal consider papers that primarily describe research methods. The editors may occasionally solicit review papers on particular topics of interest and we welcome suggestions as to likely topics and authors.

Consistent with the recommendations of the Publications Committee, manuscripts submitted to JARO will be reviewed by two outside reviewers. When a manuscript is submitted, it will be assigned to one of the Associate Editors, listed on the title page of this issue. Selection of reviewers and evaluation of the reviews will be done jointly by the Editor in Chief and that Associate Editor. The editorial policy will be to accept only high quality papers containing important research results. Accepted manuscripts will be made available electronically for proofing by the authors, and will be published on Springer-Verlag's LINK site (<http://link.springer-ny.com/link/service/journals/10162/index.htm>). The electronic version will be available substantially earlier than the print version.

JARO is designed to serve the membership of the ARO and the wider research community in otolaryngology and communication sciences. I believe that this first issue is an auspicious start for this enterprise. With the support of the membership of ARO, we can make JARO an exciting record of the ever-expanding knowledge base of our science.

Eric Young  
Editor-in-Chief