The University of Kansas Intercampus Program in Communicative Disorders (IPCD) was established in 1955 and became the first program in the country to receive accreditation in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology from the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association. The IPCD combines the faculty, research, and clinical facilities of two departments: Hearing and Speech, which is located at the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City, and Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences and Disorders, located in Lawrence, Kansas. Graduate degrees conferred through the IPCD include the Master of Arts and the Doctor of Philosophy in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. The Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.) and Au.D.–Ph.D. degrees are also available.

Hearing research occurs on both campuses and in combination with other departments, ranges from basic and clinical sciences to outcome studies of a state-mandated hearing assessment program. In this journal, we highlight the wide range of ongoing research at the university. At the cellular level, Dr. Hope Karnes and colleagues examine the mechanisms involved in cell death and mitochondrial function in brain stem nuclei after deafferentation. At the perceptual level, Dr. Ed Auer provides a summary of the research in the perceptual-cognitive apparatus associated with speechreading and its relation to auditory word recognition. Dr. Sarah Ferguson and colleagues examine the influence of foreign accent on word identification and show that the influence on perception is independent of age, hearing status, and listening condition.

In the realm of clinical research, Sandy Prentiss and colleagues describe their success in preserving hearing and balance in patients implanted with cochlear implants. Dr. John Ferraro discusses the use of electrocochleography to enhance the sensitivity diagnosis of Ménière’s disease and improve auditory brain stem testing in newborns. Distortion product otoacoustic emissions have gained popularity in assessing hearing status. However, a possible limitation of their clinical use may be due to the multiple sources of their generation. Dr. Tiffany Johnson reviews the literature of these sources and describes her research to develop stimulus parameters based on the fine structure in individuals. The effectiveness of the cross-check principle to determine hearing loss in infants is examined by Dr. Stacey Baldwin and colleagues. They evaluate visual reinforcement audiometry, otoacoustic emission, and tympanometry to determine degree, type, and configuration of hearing loss. In an outcome study of legislative policy, Kathy Halpin and associates determine the influence of Kansas’s Universal Newborn Hearing Screening on an early identification program for young children with hearing loss. In a retrospective study based on chart review, they provide a description of numerous positive outcomes in the diagnosis and rehabilitation of children since initiating the screening program.

Mark E. Chertoff
Guest Editor

Visit JAAA online at http://www.audiology.org/resources/journal