

# Editorial

## Annual JAAA Awards



### **JAAA PRIZE**

We are pleased to announce that the annual JAAA Prize of \$1000, for the best article published in the year 2003, has been awarded to Joseph Kei, Ravi Sockalingham, Clive Holloway, Alan Agyik, Craig Brinin, and Doreen Baine of the University of Queensland, Australia, and Dalhousie University, Canada, for their paper, "Transient Evoked Otoacoustic Emissions in Adults: A Comparison between Two Test Protocols," which appeared in the December 2003 issue of JAAA. The authors applied clinical decision analysis to a comparison of two TEOAE screening protocols in 115 adult ears. The two procedures, offered on a commercially available device, differed only in the time window over which a response is measured and the rate at which clicks are presented. The gold standard was the pure-tone audiometric threshold at each test frequency. The failure criterion was a threshold in excess of 15 dB HL. The authors asked how successfully the TEOAE signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) predicted the presence of such a loss, as a function of the SNR pass/fail criterion. Basic findings were straightforward. The protocol employing a shorter time window and a higher click rate (Quickscreen) yielded slightly better results than the protocol employing a longer time window and slower click rate (Default).

In my editorial, "Decisions, Decisions," introducing that issue, I said, "Of particular interest to audiologists engaged in any type of screening, however, are the data that the authors have carefully catalogued in the appendices. Here are found the raw data underlying their clinical decision analysis: hit rate, false alarm rate, efficiency, predictive value of a positive result, and predictive

value of a negative result. They are presented systematically for virtually every possible pass/fail criterion."

The data provided in this exercise in clinical decision analysis provide a useful database for anyone who seeks a better understanding of the trade-offs forced by the complex interactions among the several key factors that impact the pass/fail criteria of various screening protocols.

### **JAAA EDITOR'S AWARD**

Dr. Michael Valente is the recipient of the JAAA Editor's Award for the year 2003. Dr. Valente is Director of Adult Audiology at the Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis. For more than a decade, Dr. Valente's reviews have reflected the wisdom and insights borne of his long and distinguished career as both clinician and researcher. His reviews have always been unusually thorough and complete. It is a great pleasure to acknowledge Mike's thoughtful contributions to the success of the journal.

We say it many times, but it still bears repeating: Professional journals cannot succeed without the probing analyses and dedicated service of our assistant and associate editors. Michael Valente exemplifies the many qualities that characterize service to, and leadership in, our profession. I take great pleasure in awarding this year's Editor's Award to a valued colleague, Dr. Michael Valente.

*James Jerger  
Editor-in-Chief*