

Foreword

It is hard to believe that more than 25 years have passed since Thieme Publishers contacted each of us with a proposal to prepare a significant textbook for audiology; Thieme wanted to produce what was described as a revolutionary work that would have a significant impact on the audiology profession. Having had publication experience, we were impressed with the excitement Thieme had in the project and honored for being considered for such a noteworthy task. Of course, after consideration, we readily accepted. At the time, little did we comprehend the magnitude of the project, and the effort needed to produce what would be almost 2,000 printed pages, as well as the long-lasting impact the three books would have on the audiology profession. We also didn't realize how working together would create a bond and bring the three of us together as long-lasting friends.

The focus of our first joint session was product development. As clinicians, educators, and administrators, we realized the significant growth audiology had undergone during the years of our professional careers. Based on this, we first made the decision that one book would be a tome, and its size alone would be impractical. We then identified three topic areas that needed coverage: diagnosis, treatment, and practice management. Then we began referring to it as the audiology “trilogy.” We set out the lofty goal of preparing a revolutionary set of books that would mark a milestone in pushing the boundaries of how hearing and balance disorders are diagnosed and treated. Additionally, at the more pragmatic level, we wanted to do our best to ensure that the knowledge proffered was transformed into clinical diagnosis, treatment, and clinical care. We wanted to provide a wealth of innovative knowledge and practices to offer fresh perspectives on new and old challenges.

As both authors and editors, our challenge was to enlist our most seasoned and knowledgeable colleagues to help us advance innovative ideas in audiology, to go beyond the ordinary while seeking a forward-thinking treatment of the topic areas covered. Our goal was to educate and inspire students and professionals alike to be aware of the current knowledge available and rethink the innovative possibilities in hearing and balance diagnosis and treatment. And that we did! Not only once, but twice in a second edition.

The “trilogy” books are now complete in a third edition, each with separate editors. Dr. Jason Galster, Dr. Brian Taylor, and Dr. Samuel R. Atcherson have not only met but have exceeded the goals we initially set forth. In this *Audiology Diagnosis* edition, Dr. Atcherson has re-invited some contributors from the previous edition, and he has invited a number of new ones to join in helping to update this book. To round out the book, he included chapter contributors on acoustic stimuli used in diagnostic testing, outer ear examination, tinnitus and hyperacusis, auditory steady-state responses, the role of public health in addressing hearing and balance disorders, diagnostic audiology via telemedicine, and communicating diagnostic results to patients.

We are most grateful to Thieme for having confidence in us from the beginning. We promised what we thought would work without knowing that some of it would, but it seemed to, which some might attribute to sage thinking, but we thought of it as “calibrated” luck. We are even more grateful for the dedication and hard work of those colleagues who graciously accepted our invitation to provide their valuable knowledge and expertise in preparing their chapters. Without them, both editions would not have been realized. With our blessing and the commitment of Thieme, we are now pleased to see the “trilogy” being updated and continued for the next generation of audiologists.



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