

Preface

This book contains the papers that were presented at the XIIIth International Symposium on Hearing (ISH), which was held in Dourdan, France, between August 24 and 29, 2003.

From its first edition in 1969, the Symposium has had a distinguished tradition of bringing together auditory psychologists and physiologists. Hearing science now also includes computational modeling and brain imaging, and this is reflected in the papers collected. The rich interactions between participants during the meeting were yet another indication of the appositeness of the original idea to confront approaches around shared scientific issues.

A total of 62 solicited papers are included, organized into 12 broad thematic areas ranging from cochlear signal processing to plasticity and perceptual learning. The themes follow the sessions and the chronological order of the paper presentations during the symposium.

A notable feature of the ISH books is the transcription of the discussions between participants. A draft version of the book is circulated before the meeting, and all participants are invited to make written comments, before or during the presentations. This particularity is perhaps what makes the ISH book series so valuable as a truthful picture of the evolution of issues in hearing science. We tried to uphold this tradition, which was all the easier because of the excellent scientific content of the discussions.

We are grateful to the generosity of our sponsors: the Office of Naval Research Global, Science and Technology (ONRG); the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) Départements Sciences de la Vie et Sciences pour l'Ingénieur; and the Délégation Générale pour l'Armement (DGA). The département Production of the Institut de Recherche et Coordination Acoustique/Musique (IRCAM) provided us with valuable audiovisual facilities. We also wish to thank Pierre Divenyi and Keith Bromley for their help in getting the ONRG sponsorship; Alan Palmer and Ian Winter for helping us in the reviewing process; Anne Caclin and Joan Llobera for efficient assistance during the meeting; and Christelle Séry for a memorable guitar concert at the Abbaye de l'Ouye.

Finally, we would like to thank all authors and participants for the high scientific quality of the meeting and the conviviality that they established during those few days in Dourdan. Again, this is one of the traditions of ISH that we hope will endure in future editions.

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<http://www.springer.com/978-0-387-21915-8>

Auditory Signal Processing

Physiology, Psychoacoustics, and Models

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L. (Eds.)

2005, XIV, 524 p., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-0-387-21915-8