

# PREFACE

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In summer 2006, the 4th International Symposium on Middle Ear Mechanics in Research and Otolology was held at the University of Zurich, Switzerland. More than 250 participants from 33 countries of all five continents came together to present their newest results of research, to exchange their knowledge in practical applications, to discuss open questions and to discover new unsolved problems.

This book includes representative and selective articles of lectures and papers held during the symposium and thereby gives an overview of the ongoing research and current knowledge in function and mechanics of the normal, diseased and reconstructed middle ear. It covers basic research, engineering and clinical aspects of evaluation, diagnosis and surgery of the middle ear as well as implantable hearing devices. These subjects have been discussed in a very broad and interdisciplinary way between the participants. The 44 contributions went through a peer review process by the scientific committee.

After this fourth meeting of experts in a successful and developing series, this book follows the tradition of the organizers of the previous conferences to collect the contributions of the symposium. The 1st symposium was held 1996 in Dresden and was initiated by K. B. Hüttenbrink, the 2nd symposium was organized by S. N. Merchant and J. J. Rosowski 1999 in Boston and the 3rd symposium was held 2003 in Matsuyama, arranged by K. Gyo and H. Wada. We are proud to continue these series and to add a collection of current and interesting contributions presented and discussed intensively in Zurich during MEMRO 2006.

The meeting in Zurich took place in a very personal atmosphere; it has initialized and promoted many fruitful discussions with different points of view. The symposium gave good opportunities to maintain old friendships and to create new ones. We are very grateful to all helpers, institutions and sponsors that made this symposium so successful. Our special thanks go

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The participants decided to continue the tradition of MEMRO and meet again 2009 in Stanford. We are sure that the next meeting will further improve the knowledge in understanding and treatment of the normal and the diseased middle ear.

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