Preface

This is the premier issue of *Trends in Amplification*. The goal of each issue is to provide clinicians, researchers and students with a comprehensive overview of a specific topic in the field of amplification. Each issue will be peer reviewed to ensure readers that the information is accurate and current. The overall goal is to present information that clinicians can utilize in daily practice; educators and students can use in the classroom; and researchers can use in the laboratory.

The current issue deals with output limiting. These options range from linear amplification with peak clipping to multi-band compression incorporating full dynamic range compression. Significant confusion exists concerning the similarities, differences, advantages and disadvantages among the various methods of output limiting. There is even considerable confusion regarding the terminology that is often used to describe the various output limiting methods.

This issue attempts to tackle this complex topic and clarify some of the confusions described above. I hope the contents within this manuscript will clarify many of the confusions which appear to be present when the terms “compression,” “compression limiting,” “peak clipping,” “automatic volume control,” or “wide dynamic range compression” are used in lectures or in the literature. It is rich with figures that are designed to help expand upon the points made within the text. There is no doubt that there will still be some questions about certain issues. However, it is hoped that the reader will be significantly better informed and will be in a better position to make decisions regarding which form of output limiting might be an appropriate choice for his patient.

This issue is authored by Francis K. Kuk, Ph.D., who is the Director of Audiological Services at Phonak, Inc., in Naperville, Illinois. Prior to his appointment at Phonak, Dr. Kuk spent four years as Director of Audiology at the University of Illinois-Chicago in the Department of Otolaryngology. Prior to that, Dr. Kuk was an assistant research scientist and Director of Hearing Aid Services at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. Dr. Kuk has published numerous papers and book chapters in the area of amplification. For those who have had an opportunity to hear Dr. Kuk present his ideas at a local or national meeting, we are impressed by his ability to transform difficult concepts into understandable images. He is truly a gifted teacher. I am hopeful that the reader will agree that Dr. Kuk has extended his teaching talents to the pages of this issue.

Michael Valente, Ph.D.
Editor-in-Chief