

**President's Report, AGM of the Australasian Speech Science and Technology Association,
16th December 2019**

ASSTA's major achievement of 2019 was to host the pre-eminent International Congress of Phonetic Sciences (ICPhS) which was held in Melbourne from 5th to 9th August. ICPhS is held every four years under the auspices of the International Phonetic Association to provide a forum for researchers to present their latest findings to the global phonetic sciences community. The 2019 congress was the first to be held in the Southern Hemisphere. ICPhS proved to be a huge success under the outstanding leadership of chair Marija Tabain supported by a dedicated organising committee (Rosey Billington, Sasha Calhoun, Felicity Cox, Donald Derrick, Gerry Docherty, Paola Escudero, Shunichi Ishihara, Paul Warren). I'm confident those in attendance will agree that the calibre of the scientific and social programs, the organisation, the quality of the venue and the catering were exceptional.

An impressive 959 delegates attended the Congress which was also supported by La Trobe University, Macquarie University, Victoria University of Wellington, Western Sydney University and the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language. 792 papers were presented (406 oral and 381 poster presentations) including five inspiring plenary talks by Professors Amalia Arvaniti, Jonas Beskow, Nick Evans, Bryan Gick, and Lucie Ménard. The programme included 10 special oral sessions, two special poster sessions and four workshops with contributions from 47 countries. 473 reviewers took part in the double-blind review, facilitated by 28 area chairs. There were also three satellite meetings. The Australasian speech science community can be very proud of the excellence in research we were able to showcase on the world's stage.

The United Nations General Assembly declared 2019 the International year of Indigenous Languages so it was particularly fitting that 'Endangered Languages' was one of the major themes of ICPhS. ASSTA members continue to make a positive contribution to endangered languages in Australia through careful phonetic documentation and analysis, and engagement with communities in an effort to help raise awareness of indigenous languages and improve language preservation, promotion and revitalisation. The second ICPhS congress theme 'Major Language Varieties' also has particular importance in this part of the world. Australia is a highly multicultural society which has seen considerable immigration from across the world leading to increased diversity in the various Englishes and other languages used in the community. Of course, Australian and New Zealand English are two 'New World' Englishes, and te reo Māori, a language that is being actively recovered and protected, is an official language of New Zealand. The congress themes highlighted the important work being done by ASSTA members and their teams in this research space.

Please join me in offering a hearty congratulations to Jesin James, Joshua Penney and Ping Tang who were presented with ASSTA's ICPhS Best Student Paper awards of \$1000 each at the closing ceremony.

ASSTA acknowledges the challenges that carers face juggling research and care responsibilities and we have recently initiated the Primary Carer Support for Conference Attendance Grant scheme. Up to five \$500 Carer grants will be given each year, the first of which was awarded to Adele Gregory for ICPhS attendance. ASSTA is also committed to

supporting student and early career researchers to present peer-reviewed papers at overseas conferences. Two research travel grants were awarded in 2019, to Juquiang Chang for Interspeech and Rebecca Holt for the Boston University Conference on Language Development.

ASSTA continues to support research through events that strengthen existing research groups/collaborations and foster new networks and collaborative opportunities. Twice a year we offer Research Event Awards of \$5000 each so this is a good incentive to think about planning your next research event.

Of course, one of the most important events in the ASSTA calendar is the biennial SST conference. I'm pleased to announce that in December 2020, the 18th Australasian International Conference on Speech Science and Technology - SST 2020 - will be held on the Gold Coast organised by a local organising committee from Griffith University headed by Belinda Schwerin and a conference standing committee yet to be confirmed. For the first time, SST2020 will be co-located with the Australian Linguistic Society (ALS) conference. This is a fantastic opportunity for speech science and linguistics in our region and we are excited to be collaborating with the ALS on this initiative.

ASSTA now has a twitter presence thanks to Debbie Loakes. You can find us at the_real_ASSTA @realASSTA. We also have a brand-new website thanks to Trent Lewis and team <https://assta.org/>

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the ASSTA Executive (Janet Fletcher, Trent Lewis, Debbie Loakes, Michael Tyler) for their hard work and dedication to the ASSTA community and you for your continued support of ASSTA.

I wish you a very happy and relaxing holiday season.

Felicity Cox
ASSTA President