# Establishing Priorities for International Hearing Research

This is the word document version of the online survey. Please fill it in at your leisure and copy and paste answers into the online survey.

Link to on-line survey: <https://www.qualtrics.manchester.ac.uk/jfe/form/SV_4I1uW3blHKoQwlM>

## The Aim of the survey

We, the Special Interest Group in Hearing (Hearing Acoustic SIG) within UK Acoustics Network, are looking for researchers in hearing, both basic science and clinical, to help develop a clear set of priorities for hearing research. The aim of the exercise is to publish a peer-reviewed article, which lays out priorities for hearing research as created and rated by experts in the field. Such an article will provide evidence, which can be referred to in papers, grant applications, and in the political arena. It will, we hope, help to influence national strategic funding decisions (e.g. NIH, UKRI, ERC), for example by determining topics for focused funding calls. In short, the aim of this exercise is to draw more research funds into hearing research and accelerate progress.

## Background to the survey

The UK Acoustics Network (UKAN) (www.acoustics.org) is a network of researchers in the UK, spanning all areas of acoustics. It is funded by the UK Engineering and Physical Science Research Council (EPSRC). Part of the remit of UKAN is to prepare an agreed set of Priorities for Acoustics Research (https://acoustics.ac.uk/acoustics-research-priorities/). An acoustics-wide set of priorities understandably does not give much space to the detailed needs within hearing. To ensure that the voice of hearing researchers is heard during this priority setting exercise, we are running this survey. We wish to define "hearing research" in the broadest sense and include such diverse areas as psychoacoustics, neuroscience, speech science and clinical science.

Some UK researchers may have already contributed to the UKAN Priorities in Acoustics. To be most useful for our community, we want the Priorities in Hearing to reflect the opinions of experts everywhere. If you contributed to this earlier survey, please know that we are grateful for your contribution, which has informed this latest version. You are warmly invited to respond to this next, international, version. Your previous contribution will be carried forward in the study.

## The Ask

We are seeking input from international experts across a broadly defined field of hearing to help us develop these priorities. You can contribute by giving us your answers to several questions.   
  
At this stage we are asking open questions about what you see as the challenges in your area of research. You can answer the questions below in any way you see fit – we would like to see the broadest range of issues represented.  
  
We will then subject your answers to a qualitative analysis process to pick out themes and generate a list of challenges, opportunities and ideas. In a follow-up survey, the community will be invited to prioritize the list items by answering closed questions and by providing ratings. The ultimate goal is to generate an agreed priority list.  
  
We are interested in everyone’s opinions, but will place weight on experience (which is one of the questions). As a rough guide, in this first round of the survey, we are seeking primarily opinions from people who are at least five-to-ten years post PhD. In the second, priority-setting part of the survey, we will specifically ask researchers at all career stages to rank-order topics. The current survey can nevertheless be completed by anyone. 

**If you are able to, please answer the questions below.**  
  
If you have any questions, do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,  
  
Antje Heinrich (antje.heinrich@manchester.ac.uk)  
Robert MacKinnon (robert.mackinnon@aru.ac.uk)  
Chris Sumner (christian.sumner@ntu.ac.uk)  
  
The UKAN Hearing SIG Committee  
<https://acoustics.ac.uk/sigs/hearing-acoustics/>

**Instructions**

In your professional view, what are scientific challenges in your field that need to be tackled by the acoustics research community?  You may list **up to** **5 challenges**. We have dedicated one page to each challenge. If you want to discuss fewer than 5 challenges, simply delete the spare pages.

# Challenge 1

**Please give your challenge a name**

**Describe the challenge**

Please think of both **immediate and longer-term priorities**. The more you can explain and write here the better.

**Please tell us about the current roadblock(s) to addressing this challenge.**

# Challenge 2

**Please give your challenge a name**

**Describe the challenge**

Please think of both **immediate and longer-term priorities**. The more you can explain and write here the better.

**Please tell us about the current roadblock(s) to addressing this challenge.**

# Challenge 3

**Please give your challenge a name**

**Describe the challenge**

Please think of both **immediate and longer-term priorities**. The more you can explain and write here the better.

**Please tell us about the current roadblock(s) to addressing this challenge.**

# Challenge 4

**Please give your challenge a name**

**Describe the challenge**

Please think of both **immediate and longer-term priorities**. The more you can explain and write here the better.

**Please tell us about the current roadblock(s) to addressing this challenge.**

# Challenge 5

**Please give your challenge a name**

**Describe the challenge**

Please think of both **immediate and longer-term priorities**. The more you can explain and write here the better.

**Please tell us about the current roadblock(s) to addressing this challenge.**

**Is there anything else you would like to add? If for example you think this exercise is likely to not capture something important?**

**Thank you**

**Next Steps**

The information from the open questions in this survey will be analysed using thematic analysis. The themes and sub-themes generated will then be used to create a questionnaire of closed questions, which will be sent out internationally again for ranking.

**Can I have another go at this?**

Your responses are anonymous and your challenges will be treated independently in the analysis. You are free to take this survey again. The survey will remain open until the deadline in the email.

**Questions/suggestions/contact**

If you have any questions, suggestions or wish to receive email updates on the next stage, please address them to the following people (but realise this will break anonymity):

(alphabetic order)

Antje Heinrich : antje.heinrich@manchester.ac.uk

Rob MacKinnon : robert.mackinnon@aru.ac.uk

Chris Sumner : christian.sumner@ntu.ac.uk