

Editorial

National Tinnitus Awareness Week 2026

National Tinnitus Awareness Week is a time to celebrate how far our field has come and to recognise the dedication of colleagues across the globe who continue to advance our understanding of tinnitus. It is a week that highlights innovation, collaboration and the growing confidence with which researchers and clinicians approach this condition. In recent years the tinnitus community has become more connected than ever.

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Experts now gather regularly at the World Tinnitus Congress (WTC)/International Tinnitus Seminar (ITS), the Tinnitus Research Initiative (TRI) Conference, the International Conference on Hyperacusis and Misophonia (ICHM), and the International Conference on Pharmacology and Gene Therapy for Tinnitus.

This rich cycle of scientific exchange has created a lively and ambitious global network with shared goals and shared momentum. The purpose of this Annual Tinnitus Report is to honour that collective progress. By bringing together global evidence, thematic trends, national profiles and translational insights from the past twelve months, the report reflects the achievements of this growing community and offers a clear and engaging picture of where tinnitus research stands and where it is heading. Researchers, clinicians, audiologists, engineers, psychologists, and patient leaders are contributing knowledge at a pace that would have been unimaginable a decade ago. Breakthroughs now emerge from multiple continents and diverse scientific traditions. As part of this global effort, and as an organisation recognised in 2023 by the UK government as an independent research institute, we remain committed to supporting and contributing to this shared momentum.

The evidence from this year highlights a field that is active, creative and engaged. Our PubMed search identified 502 tinnitus focused articles within the twelve-month period we examined. These publications span epidemiology, clinical innovation, digital therapeutics, vascular otology, neuromodulation and foundational neuroscience. Together they demonstrate the wide range of approaches that researchers across the world are bringing to tinnitus and related conditions, and they show the scientific energy that continues to shape the field.

A particularly encouraging development is the strong and complementary leadership emerging across countries. China continues to advance neural, vascular and precision sound therapy research with remarkable speed, and the United States continues to excel in population studies, stepped care models and clinical innovation. Together these countries produce more than forty percent of the global literature, setting a high standard that inspires continued activity across Europe, Asia, Oceania and the Middle East. Countries are influencing one another's scientific direction and helping elevate the ambition of the field as a whole.

Within this report, readers will find analyses reflecting the international momentum of tinnitus research. Global Patterns in Tinnitus Research, 2024–2025 maps worldwide research activity and dominant scientific themes, while Tinnitus Is Waking Up the Dragon and The Eagle Rises examine the complementary roles of China and the United States in driving progress. Interview-based narratives with researchers from China, North America, Europe and India provide insight into what the field requires to achieve sustained advances. A dedicated section on organisational developments explores how professional bodies and charities in the United Kingdom and United States are responding through standards, training, service design and advocacy. The report also includes patient perspectives expressed through art. Finally, the education section outlines preparations for the TRI Conference 2026 in Berlin and the 4th World Tinnitus Congress and XV International Tinnitus Seminar in London in 2027, alongside developments in structured clinical education through the CBT-Hear Training and Certification Programme.

The purpose of this report is therefore twofold. It offers a clear summary of global tinnitus research from the past year, and it reflects the collaborative spirit that defines modern tinnitus science. It recognises the achievements of colleagues around the world and celebrates the shared commitment to improving understanding, assessment and treatment. Above all, it aims to support a future in which tinnitus, hyperacusis and misophonia are understood with greater precision and approached with confidence, compassion and scientific insight.

Tinnitus research is rising. Collaboration is strengthening. Knowledge is deepening. As you read this report, we invite you to see the collective progress of a field that is moving forward together. In the words of Aristotle, *the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.*

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