

The New Journal of Nuclear Medicine

"Implicit conformity to precedent obliterates and annihilates the individual; violation of it, not justified by theory or by practical result, sets the individual on no enviable pedestal. A throne may become a pillory."

(Horatio Greenough, 1851.)

Long-time readers of *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine* will notice a number of changes in the January issue. This may be disturbing to some. Personally, I am a creature of habit who does not like change in my regular reading materials—my newspapers, magazines, and journals. "So why," you ask, "did you approve and in many ways instigate so many changes in this first issue of your editorship?"

First, I am assured that if changes are to be made in a journal such as ours, it is best to do so with the first issue of a new volume. Second, the major new addition, that of Newline, will deliver important news to our journal readers on a monthly basis.

In any case, as the above quotation from "Art and Utility" implies, if a new Editor wishes to make changes, he should be backed by theory or a practical result. In this editorial, I will present for your inspection, the ideas on which some of my early editorial decisions have been made. The practical results of these decisions will be seen in this and future issues of the Journal, and we will be seeking your judgment and guidance in making future additions and corrections.

Cover

The cover was changed to give the Journal a newer, more modern external appearance to complement the internal changes. The gradual decrease in intensity of color from top to bottom symbolizes the intensity scale on which imaging procedures depend. The traditional blue is retained.

Organization

Inside the covers, the type design of articles has also been updated. We have retained the organization of articles into Clinical and Basic Sciences but have used only one subdivision for each of these major sections—case reports and technical notes. Other major sections are Special Contributions, Editorials, and Departments. Newline appears within the advertising pages in the front of the Journal. Meeting notices and other announcements are now grouped under an expanded Calendar section, thus incorporating the "box announcements" that were previously scattered throughout the editorial pages at the end of scientific articles.

Masthead

As a reader of the Journal or an author, you should be interested in knowing the people whose efforts bring this monthly feast for your mind. Let me introduce to you the individuals who assist me with the task of editing the Journal, as we all share responsibility and credit for the publication.

The scientific editorial office, located in Houston, Texas, is housed in the Office of Special Publications at The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Hospital. The Director of that Office is Glenn R. Knotts, PhD, who has an extensive background in publishing and was once responsible for advertising policy of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. Dr. Knotts is a consultant to our Journal for advertising. Colleen M. Hubona, BA, is Assistant Director of the Office and serves as the Executive Editor of the Journal. She assists in the editorial processing of manuscripts from submission to production. Ms. Hubona has several years' experience in medical editing at M. D. Anderson Hospital and the American Medical Association.

Because I am situated in the Texas Medical Center in Houston, I have prevailed on a number of my colleagues to serve as Associate and Assistant Editors in the scientific review of manuscripts. They are listed on the masthead and represent major areas of activity in nuclear medicine. Drs. Glenn, Kasi, and Tilbury assist with the radiochemistry and radiopharmaceutical articles; Drs. Jahns and Murphy and Mr. Garza, physics and instrumentation articles; and Drs. Kim and Lamki and I, clinical articles.

The Editorial Board of the Journal remains essentially unchanged over the past few years. These individuals are experienced and knowledgeable and will provide continuity to the editorial staff. I will be communicating with them and soliciting their opinions on a regular basis, both on specific manuscripts and on general Journal policy.

The Production Staff for the Journal is located in the Society's office in New York and has been under the direction of Laura Kosden for the past four years. Ms. Kosden's experience and enthusiastic assistance are invaluable to me as a fledgling editor. Joan Simon is the able Managing Editor in charge of production.

Newsline

Also listed on the masthead is Stanley Goldsmith, MD, Associate Editor for *Newsline*, who continues in the position he has held for several years. Vincent Cherico, CNMT, is the newly designated Assistant Editor for *Newsline*.

I welcome the incorporation of this fine section into the pages of the Journal. I am certain all readers will find timely information of practical value in the features offered in *Newsline*, and that it will be a positive factor in adding to the Journal's content and appeal.

Departments

The Departments of the Journal include Letters to the Editor, Book Reviews, Abstracts, Information for Authors, Calendar, and Classified Advertising. The Abstracts published in this issue will be presented at the Radiopharmaceutical and the Instrumentation and Computer Council meetings to be held this month in Las Vegas. It is my desire to feature abstracts from the Society's council and chapter meetings in future issues, if this proves of value.

Readers will also note the addition of reader service cards in the back of the Journal. Advertising plays an important role in providing information on new products from commercial suppliers, and readers need a means of requesting additional information conveniently. As I do not like to see a plethora of cards and "stiff" paper advertisements scattered through the Journal, this serves as an alternative. A reader service card for those who wish to subscribe to the Journal and/or receive information about membership in The Society of Nuclear Medicine is also included. I hope these cards will be freely used to improve communications.

Editorial policy and procedures

Although editorial policies and procedures are still in their formative stages, I would like to describe for readers and authors the current process by which scientific articles are selected for publication. All manuscripts received in Houston are briefly inspected by Ms. Hubona and her staff to see that they conform to the requirements for manuscript preparation published in the Information for Authors. Those that do not are returned to the author for correction.

Manuscripts judged ready for review are assigned to an appropriate Associate Editor for initial reading and for recommendation of suitable reviewers. Those judged suitable for review are sent to at least two experts in the subject. Manuscripts are not "blinded" as to author or institution. Reviewers are asked to rate the manuscript on the basis of several criteria and to recommend acceptance or rejection. In most instances, acceptance is contingent on revisions, some slight, some extensive.

When the response to the reviewers' request for revision is received from the author, the Editor discusses the revised manuscript with the Associate Editors at a weekly manuscript conference and then makes the final decision on publication, which is transmitted to the author. Accepted manuscripts are edited for scientific accuracy by the Editor or Associate Editor before transmission to New York for copyediting and production.

Future plans

At the time of my election to the position of Editor of the Journal by the Board of Trustees of the Society, I stated in my remarks that my predecessor Dr. Frank DeLand had set a fast pace that I would find hard to equal. Time has shown that this was no understatement, and my admiration for Dr. DeLand has grown with my job experience. I have had the opportunity to visit the Lexington Editorial Office, and the transition from the former to the present editor has been a smooth one. Dr. DeLand, although offering me sage advice when needed, has graciously permitted me the freedom to develop my own style, and I would like to openly thank him and his staff for their support and understanding.

On a recent trip to the Southeastern Chapter meeting, I heard one of the Chapter's founding fathers, Dr. Marshall Brucer, quoted describing The Society of Nuclear Medicine's mission as "getting the information about nuclear medicine from those who have it, to those who don't, in the best possible way and with the least amount of delay." I would submit that as the motto to guide the editorial policy of this Journal. I encourage all of you who "have the information" to submit articles for publication, and those of you "who need information," to let us know what we can do to better meet your needs.

With this first issue of Volume 26, we are launched on a new beginning. With your support, we will add to the luster of this prestigious medical journal and in the process add to the strength of The Society of Nuclear Medicine and to the specialty of nuclear medicine in general. We look forward to working with, and for, all of you in the future, and hope that we will be more worthy of praise than of the pillory.

Thomas P. Haynie, MD
Editor