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The Editor

I recall the compulsive attention to detail involved in preparing a manuscript for submission to a scientific journal: a mixture of respect for both the process and the significance of publication. Respect too for the editor, the person who will judge the paper, my ideas, my offering. Even after years of submitting manuscripts as an author, the tension accompanying the process persists as does the frustration which grows during the seemingly endless wait for the response and the excitement and trepidation when the envelope arrives. Was it accepted? Was it rejected? Are revisions required before further consideration? I have to do this again!?

Now, I have another perspective, that of an editor. Day after day, carefully addressed envelopes with properly affixed postage arrive containing neatly packaged manuscripts, figures and a cover letter. Submissions arrive from around the world. Some are sophisticated and complex, others brief and practical. A gathering of intellectual produce is offered to the *Journal*, to the Editor, for review.

While an editor may be seen as a judge and the editorial process a trial, it now seems to be more like coaching athletes, musicians or students. The coach's job is not simply to play the best player or the starting team. It is also to develop the talents of the other players; a suggestion here, a slight change there, so that many others can eventually contribute to the overall team performance. It is very gratifying when an inexperienced or so-so player responds to advice and is able to play. The coach cannot play for them, but he can contribute to a better performance. Besides, if he does his job well, the experience is a good one for all: the author, the readers and the editor.

Stanley J. Goldsmith, MD, Editor-in-Chief
The Journal of Nuclear Medicine