

EDITOR'S PAGE

New Year, New Editor, New Location, New Format, New World

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Our group of editors will soon be completing our 10 years at the helm of the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology (JACC)*. As of January 1, 2002, all new manuscripts should be sent to:

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The San Francisco office will continue to handle revised manuscripts for anything initiated by the San Francisco office until July 1, 2002, when it will be closed. This six-month overlap will allow for a smooth transition between the two editorial offices. It is a little premature to say farewell, since our office still has six months of work. Nevertheless, it is never too early to thank the Associate Editors, the Managing Editor and office staff, and the reviewers for their individual and collective contributions to *JACC* over the past 10 years. It has been one of the great experiences of all our lives.

Readers will note that this issue of the *Journal* is lighter (a non-toe-breaker if dropped) and is dated January 2, 2002. Beginning this year, *JACC* will come out twice a month, which will increase the annual number of issues from 15 to 24. This will allow us to publish papers more quickly and make each issue less daunting to read. In addition to this change, Dr. DeMaria will be considering how best to move the *Journal* further into the electronic age. We know that the *Journal* will continue to thrive under his able leadership.

I am writing this column while flying cross-country on a Boeing 767. I am staring at the flexible plastic knife that came with the lunch, and that seems so out of place next to

the rest of the metal utensils. This legacy of September 11, 2001, is a chilling reminder of the fact that evil is real in this world and that some people seek to destroy human life as avidly as we try to save it. It seems clear that our world may have changed forever, at least for those living in the U.S. In this new world, I was reassured by heavy security at the San Francisco airport. I took a long hard look at my fellow passengers. I wondered if I would be willing to interfere with a hijacking in the air to save other lives on the ground, as did a nearby resident of ours in California, causing that plane to crash in Pennsylvania. I will never look at white powder the same way again. We hung our American flag and gave two to our neighbors, all of which wave proudly in front of our homes. Like many individuals around the world, I have experienced the entire successive spectrum of disbelief, shock, horror, anger, frustration, sympathy for the families of victims, and the hope that justice will be done. But in this new world, regardless of the outcome of all of the above, we still have our mission of helping and service, which should always remain the focus of our beloved profession. Perhaps this is why the medical literature doesn't devote much space to such happenings. Our efforts have to be above such things, for collectively, we have the opportunity to improve the quality of, and save thousands of, lives each day. This should always be a higher calling in our brave new world.

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