

EDITORIAL

A Legacy for the New Editor

The Journal of Investigative Dermatology is the permanent record of the State of the Art and the Science of Dermatology. With this issue, stewardship of that invaluable legacy passes on to a new Editor. It is thus an appropriate time to consider how the *Journal* has fared and what its future holds.

Firstly, I am happy for this opportunity to express my gratitude to a fine Board of Associate Editors whose hard work has done much to shape the *Journal* during their tenure. No less thanks is owed to the hundreds of Reviewers whose generous contribution of time and expertise assured the high quality of the *Journal's* content.

Secondly, I wish to voice my appreciation for the support of the two Societies which sponsor the *Journal*. One of the most rewarding aspects of my term as Editor has been the privilege of guiding the *Journal* during a period of amalgamation of sponsorship by the Society of Investigative Dermatology and the European Society for Dermatological Research. The multinational flavor of its pages attest to the fact that this international cooperative effort now rests on a solid foundation.

Finally, I have been reflecting upon the heritage that passes on to my successor. The pages of the *Journal* have been a witness to the exponential growth in scientific dermatology of the past two decades. They attest to the application of exciting new technology and scientific advances in the exploration of disease mechanisms and therapeutic strategies as well as to a vastly enlarged pool of investigators. The *Journal* is becoming larger and the next Editor will inherit the problem of accommodating all of the excellent papers he will receive.

We have come a long way since 1954 when the late Stephen Rothman could encompass, in a single medium

sized text-book, all that was known about the scientific basis of cutaneous biology. In 1982, we stand on the brink of real advances in the understanding and treatment of skin disease. We have, at last, the critical mass which is necessary to take advantage of the opportunities all around us. Whether these opportunities can be seized will depend in large measure on whether this critical mass of Investigative Dermatologists can be maintained and replenished. Clearly, continued erosion of research support threatens to undermine the confidence of the present research community and turn its potential successors away.

The new Editor inherits a *Journal* with pages that are full of exciting promises that capture the imagination and provoke new research initiatives. Fullfillment of those promises is less than certain but far from impossible. It will require an extra effort of commitment from the Dermatologic Community as a whole to sustain the present momentum. As a resolute optimist, the departing Editor senses that this effort is being and will continue to be made and this is part of the legacy we pass on to the next Editor.

Dr. Howard P. Baden, who assumes this position, is in his own right a talented investigator whose work on keratinization has been at the forefront of that area. He brings to the Editorship broad experience and genuine understanding of the scientific basis of dermatology. All of us on the Editorial Board wish him luck, success, and the continued support of the readers and contributors of the *Journal*.

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