

## Looking Back, Looking Forward

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With this issue, the first volume of the Journal is now complete. It now is appropriate to look back to assess what has been achieved in the past 16 months since the announcement of our intent to publish, and to set goals for the future. I think unquestionably, the Journal has provided a venue for the publication of clinically related research. Over the past year, the number of unsolicited manuscripts has been gradually increasing. For the year to date, there have been 43 original scientific papers or case reports. Several of these have been entirely or partially funded by grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Thus, I believe there is growing recognition that the Journal is becoming a respected outlet for publication of clinical sleep science. In addition, as exemplified by publication in this issue of the consensus summary and the complete abstracts of the NIH State of the Science Conference on Manifestations and Management of Chronic Insomnia in Adults,<sup>1</sup> the JCSM is fulfilling a vital role in disseminating needed information to the greater sleep community and the public. Perhaps most importantly is the Journal's function as a vehicle to disseminate useful information to its core readership, who as members of the AASM, is primarily clinicians and/or clinical investigators. Hopefully, in addition its original scientific content, the readership finds that the JCSM's pro/con debates, reviews, special articles, sleep medicine pearls and board review questions stimulating, provocative and educational.

Looking forward, can we do better? There is no question that there is room for improvement. Your editorial board, deputy and associate editors, the JCSM's staff and I are dedicated both to maintaining the achievements of the past year, and improving the JCSM's quality and operations. What then is planned in the foreseeable future? For authors, reviewers, editors and our staff, the Journal is changing vendors for its electronic manuscript submission and processing. This change is being made because we believe that it will improve the speed and ease that authors, editors, reviewers and staff interact with each other. Announcements related to this change will be forthcoming. With increasing numbers of submissions and expeditious review, the Journal will be challenged to avoid a backlog of accepted papers and to publish them in a timely manner. Thus, when it becomes appropriate, the Journal will increase its publication frequency to bimonthly. In addition, by publishing the abstracts of the NIH Insomnia conference, the current issue introduces "Web or electronic only" content. This format is used by other mainline medical journals such as *Circulation* and *Pediatrics*, and will be selectively used by the Journal as well. Readers and authors should be assured that the combined "electronic" and print content is the official version of the Journal. Finally, I anticipate that the Journal will be indexed

on PubMed in the near future thus creating greater awareness of its contents.

As your editor, I am committed to developing and maintaining a high quality clinical journal that meets the needs of the AASM members and the readership. I am open to your comments, critiques and, of course, kudos! Finally, as described in Dr. Epstein's and Stepanski's editorial,<sup>2</sup> I would like to add my own personal request to contribute to the AASM's and American Sleep Medicine Foundation's efforts to assist in the relief efforts related to the human and economic suffering caused by Hurricane Katrina.

### REFERENCES

1. National Institutes of Health State of the Science Conference Statement on Manifestations and Management of Chronic Insomnia in Adults. *J Clin Sleep Med.* 2005;1(4):412-421.
2. Epstein LE, Stepanski EJ. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita—A call for assistance. *J Clin Sleep Med.* 2005; 1:333