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Our "Cover Story"

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The monthly arrival of journals is not an insignificant event in our lives. The cyclical nature of journal deliveries marks the ebb and flow of time and frequently serves as a reminder that another month has passed. There is a comfort provided by the familiar covers, the traditional space on the desk that they occupy, or maybe even by the pile of those read and those unread in a corner of the office or our work area. Thus, it is not without some trepidation that we have dared make a major change in the cover of *The Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery*.

With this issue, we inaugurate the new cover and wish to point out several of its most prominent features. We have also instituted changes in the internal design. For the inaugural cover, we thought it appropriate to display the prior covers that have been used for the *Journal*. It would have been of interest to reflect back to understand the motivation behind each of the cover changes. Certainly, in at least one instance, it marked the change in the name of the *Journal* from *The Journal of Thoracic Surgery* to *The Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery*. The new cover prominently displays the names of the Section Editors and the members of the Editorial Board. We have also included photos of these important individuals directly following this editorial, a feature that we plan to continue at appropriate intervals. These individuals contribute unselfishly of their time and expertise to provide authors with the feedback necessary to optimize their manuscripts. It is these individuals who set the high standards of the *Journal* and who continue to make it the journal with the highest impact factor in its field.

The second major feature of the new cover represents a photo publication opportunity for our readers. Each month the *Journal* will feature a photo submission by you, our readers. For the time being, we are leaving the appropriateness of those photos to those who submit them. From time to time, we plan to use historical photos from our specialty, but we also welcome your submissions. These may be particularly interesting medical photographs or they may be something more personal. They should be submitted as high-quality glossy, preferably color, prints.

The internal changes are designed to improve readability and facilitate access to areas of interest. To facilitate movement through an issue, we have added identified tabs to the tables of contents pages that will be set in the same sequence as the *Journal* sections are ordered. The tabs in the tables of contents will be repeated in the same positions on each page of each section and will "bleed" (run off the outside edge of the page after the book is trimmed), thereby rendering each section easily visible as one looks at the outside edge of the closed book or flips casually through the pages. Within each section, the identified tabs and section-specific running heads make it easy to determine which section one is looking at.

On the opening pages of individual articles, we have given more prominence to article titles and authors, provided clear cross-referencing of editorials and related articles, both in the tables of contents and in the articles themselves, and allowed space for photographs of authors or groups who wish to supply them. Within the articles, we have increased

the prominence of tables and figures. In general, we have tried to make the *Journal* look more like the significant publication that it *is*.

We apologize for any disquiet that receiving a journal with a new cover and significant internal changes may produce. We think the benefits far outweigh the downside.