Progress and changes

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There have been some significant changes related to category organization and the Associate Editorial roster of *The Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery*. As I discussed in my editorial in the April issue of the *JTCVS* (2011;141:861-2), we have added a timely section to the *Journal*, titled "Cardiothoracic Surgical Education and Training." To oversee this new section, we have appointed Ara Vaporciyan, MD, from the University of Texas Anderson Cancer Center, as an Associate Editor. Dr Vaporciyan, in addition to being an MD and Board certified in thoracic surgery, also has a master's degree in education and is an expert in this area. The *Journal* is receiving an increasing number of quantitative and semiquantitative papers on the subject of cardiothoracic surgical education. Because of an increase in device innovation requiring re-education and changes in the formal training of residents and post-graduate residents, this new section has become a necessity. We believe Dr Vaporciyan's oversight of this section and his leadership of our online continuing medical education program will keep the readership up to date on new methods of education that are changing owing to administrative, research, and technical advances.

In addition, we have appointed Emile Bacha, MD, Chief of Congenital Heart Surgery at New York Presbyterian Hospital and the top Editorial Board reviewer of congenital heart papers the past several years, to work with Pedro del Nido, MD, of Children's Hospital in Boston to oversee the "Congenital Heart Disease" section. This category has seen a significant influx of papers, and it is a very potent force in new technical developments and new database information on the surgical treatment of congenital heart disease.

Owing to the retirement of Martin McKneally, MD, after 10 years of superb service to the *Journal*, Cary Akins, MD, of Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston has been appointed the new Ethics Editor. Cary has had excellent service in ethics committee work for the Society of Thoracic Surgeons and the American Association for Thoracic Surgery (AATS), and we look forward to working with him.

The final addition to our Associate Editor Board roster is Dr Sheng-Shou Hu of the Fuwai Hospital in Beijing. He is the Associate Editor of the Chinese language edition of the *JTCVS*, which is published quarterly, abstracting the

previous quarter's best articles in *JTCVS*. This has stimulated a tremendous interest in the *JTCVS* in China, and we hope it will encourage cardiothoracic surgeons of the Far East to read and continue to contribute to the *JTCVS*, the AATS, and the Western Thoracic Surgical Association (WTSA).

As most readers know, authors presenting in the formal sessions of the AATS and WTSA annual meetings are required to provide a manuscript to the *Journal*. This year, we requested all authors to have manuscripts submitted by the start of the meeting, preferably 30 days ahead of each meeting. This was accomplished in virtually every presentation from both society meetings, and these important papers will therefore be published significantly sooner as their review process will be completed much sooner.

The Editorial Impact Factors for 2010 were recently released for all surgical journals, and we are pleased to report that the *JTCVS* Impact Factor for 2010 is 3.608, up from 3.063 in 2009, a 20% increase. *JTCVS* now ranks 12th of 187 surgical journals. We are obviously very pleased with this news, which is in no small part due to the outstanding clinical and experimental contributions from our national and international colleagues in all aspects of our specialty and the outstanding Editorial Board and guest reviewers who review more than 1500 manuscripts yearly. I am particularly grateful to our readership for their increasing support of the *JTCVS*.

On a different note, I was fortunate to make a recent visit to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland, to view the new Stetten Museum of Medical Research to celebrate the opening of a very interesting exhibition on July 11, 2011. In the 1960s, when Eugene Braunwald was Chief of Cardiology and Andrew Glenn Morrow was the Chief of Cardiac Surgery, there was an extraordinary and productive collaboration of original research on clinical and experimental cardiac science. This exhibit is centered in the development of cardiac surgery in general and focuses specifically on some of the contributions of the NIH during that embryonic period in the development of valve surgery.

In attendance were alumni of the NIH heart programs, as well as a number of high-ranking officials of the Food and Drug Administration and NIH. The display, titled "Innovation and Invention: The NIH and Prosthetic Heart Valves," was sponsored in part by the AATS and the Thoracic Surgical Foundation for Research and Education, organizations that promulgate the history and education of cardiac surgery in the United States and worldwide as part of our heritage. It was indeed a terrific day at one of American's greatest institutions and I highly recommend a visit to see some of this interesting imagery and history.

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