Editor's review and looking forward

Lawrence H. Cohn, MD

I wanted to take the opportunity to wish our readership a happy and healthy 2013 and to highlight some of the accomplishments of the *Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery* this past year.

The Perioperative Management and Cardiothoracic Surgical Education and Training sections, which were implemented over the past 2 years, have met with great enthusiasm. Perioperative care for cardiovascular and thoracic surgeons is an important topic and many exceptional contributions in perioperative management have been published. The Cardiothoracic Surgical Education and Training section may be the first of its type in any surgical journal and it too has been met with great interest. The articles in this section have focused on the current topics so important in the education of thoracic and cardiovascular surgery including simulation, comparison of resident versus staff outcomes, and minimum requirements for the training of our residents worldwide. It has been very gratifying to see this section evolve, underscoring the importance of education for all, and I encourage our readers to reflect on this topic as it is critical to the future of our specialty.

In this issue, you will notice a brief article titled "Statement on matching language to the type of evidence used in describing outcomes data." This has been written jointly by the HEART Group Journals, which consists of approximately 25 journals worldwide specializing in cardiovascular disease. This statement, to be printed in all the HEART Group Journals, mirrors the concern about over-enthusiastic language when reporting data of randomized and observational studies. Terminology can be extremely broad in general and may skew the message delivered. Therefore, standard terminology is recommended in subsequent publications of outcomes research.

The Editors as a group are intensifying efforts in the area of Continuing Medical Education (CME) for our readers. Under the direction of Dr Vaporcuyan, I have engaged some very talented cardiothoracic residents to create online CME activities from selected articles published in the

Journal. I believe this will enhance our CME capabilities and enable the *Journal* to provide our readership an expanded CME tool as we fine tune our new CME platform debuting this year.

I would like to thank the entire Editorial Board and all of the ad-hoc reviewers for their diligent peer review. I would also like to acknowledge specifically our top Editorial Board and ad-hoc reviewers. This year's top 10 reviewers from the Editorial Board are Joseph Woo, Thierry-Pierre Carrel, Chad Denlinger, Paul Kurlansky, Niv Ad, Michael Borger, Victor Ferraris, Rakesh Suri, James Fann, and Erle Austin. The following are our top 10 ad-hoc reviewers: Vinay Badhwar, John Toole, Richard Lee, Tirone David, Vinod Thourani, Jose Bernal, Elaine Tseng, Munir Boodhwani, Anthony Estrera, and Davis Drinkwater. Their professional expertise and consistent high-quality work is greatly appreciated.

In closing, I would like to speak about the general state of American health care. With the re-election of President Barack Obama, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act is now a reality and the uncertainty of its unprecedented changes and the anticipated continued decline in reimbursements may force physicians to rethink the way they practice. I believe we as cardiovascular and thoracic surgeons require a comprehensive understanding of the economics of health care. It will be necessary for us to practice in a more cost-effective fashion and to become technically more efficient to achieve maximum outcomes. Concurrent with the changes in this act, I believe now, more than ever, we also need to re-emphasize and advocate for tort reform. However, during these uncertain times in health care our biggest responsibility to our profession is to continue to encourage and mentor the youth of the United States and abroad who have the intellectual capacity and drive to become the outstanding physicians of our future.

Once again, Happy New Year to all of our readers and their families and I am looking forward to the continued success of the *Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular* as we publish our 145th volume in 2013.

From the Division of Cardiac Surgery, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, Mass.

Address for reprints: Lawrence H. Cohn, MD, Division of Cardiac Surgery, Brigham and Women's Hospital, 75 Francis St, Boston, MA 02115 (E-mail: lcohn@partners.org).

J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg 2013;145:1

0022-5223/\$36.00

Copyright © 2013 by The American Association for Thoracic Surgery

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jtcvs.2012.11.041>