

A message from Dr David F Apple Jr MD

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1962—the year this journal was born, the year this writer finished medical school and started training. Although the personal interest in spinal cord injury had not surfaced, two events in that year are well remembered. While serving as a student observer in a large city hospital emergency room, an inebriated man with an unsupported cervical spine was sat up and became quadriplegic. Later that year in another large city hospital, patients with quadriplegia received inadequate care with most dying because of sepsis before having a chance with what little rehabilitation was available.

Fortunately, these scenarios do not happen today. And why? In the mid 40s the Stoke Mandeville Unit revolutionized spinal injury care, laying down the parameters of a successful program. Gradually, the experiences at Stoke and fledgling units in the United States and other countries garnered sufficient numbers to be clinically evaluated and reported. But where?

The journal *Paraplegia* was born to fulfill

that need in 1962. Over the next 30 years the journal was to be the major beacon of knowledge transfer. In the pages of this journal is chronicled the progress of spinal cord injury care, reaching all areas of the world. The annual meeting of the International Society of Paraplegia and the meetings of national societies provide a forum for the spoken word and act as a catalyst for organizing knowledge. But the words would be experienced by only a few if it were not for the printed message in *Paraplegia*.

Because of this journal spinal care the world over is better. Emergency management, rehabilitation, community reintegration and long term follow up have a place and meaning in spinal injury care because of the printed word in *Paraplegia*. A debt of gratitude is owed by the physicians, health care personnel, and especially the patients to the labor of the editors, the editorial board, the contributors and the publishers: to them a well deserved thanks for 30 years of dedication.