

Editorial

Journal of Perinatology: The Official Journal of the Section on Perinatal Pediatrics

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In 1999, the *Journal of Perinatology* debuts as the official publication of the Section on Perinatal Pediatrics of the American Academy of Pediatrics. The section, conceived in 1971, was officially approved by the Board in 1974. During the past 25 years, the scope and activities of the Perinatal Section have progressively expanded. We proudly celebrate coming of age and our 25th anniversary this year, with approval and sponsorship of our own subspecialty journal. Identification of the *Journal of Perinatology* as our official publication is another significant accomplishment and a milestone for the Section.

The Perinatal Section has attracted more than 2000 members, making it the largest section in the Academy, and accounting for more than half the neonatologists in the United States. I would like to encourage all neonatologists and others associated with the care of newborns to join the Section, which speaks for its members with a strong voice.

Among the many accomplishments of the Section are its educational activities. Prime among these is the Neonatal Resuscitation Program, which recently certified its one millionth graduate. At the annual fall meeting of the Academy, the Perinatal Section sponsors both a state-of-the-art lecture series and a well rounded scientific program. We encourage participation by young investigators and provide travel grants for them. The annual spring Perinatal Workshop provides a wonderful interactive discussion forum focusing mainly on practical and organizational issues in providing optimal neonatal care. The increasingly popular Neo-Prep, an intensive week-long review course in neonatal medicine sponsored by the Section, has helped keep Section members up to date and provides a comprehensive review for board certification or recertification. The Organization of Neonatal-Perinatal Training Program Directors meets each fall to consider issues of fellowship, residency, and medical student training; work-force census and projections; and how electronic media can be

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used for exchange of information and problem solving. These various programs link issues, activities, and information to Section members. The Committee on Practice has played an important role in identifying workforce needs and will continue to address administrative aspects of providing care to newborns.

Under the expert guidance of its Editor-in-Chief Gilbert Martin, the *Journal* has also matured, with a nearly 20-year evolution from a local to a national publication. Under the new ownership of Stockton Press, we anticipate the range of influence to extend globally. This process will be facilitated by the expanded access afforded by an electronic version available to all subscribers. While Dr. Martin oversees the transition process, the Perinatal Section will bring its members' expertise to the editorial board and review process. We will continue to address topics of interest in newborn medicine and related fields, including fetal-maternal medicine and neonatal-perinatal nursing. We will emphasize peer-reviewed original articles, and include commentaries, editorials, and review articles. Our intent is to provide a forum for excellent papers more apt to interest neonatal-perinatal subspecialists than the more generalist readership of the Academy's parent journal, *Pediatrics*.

The *Journal of Perinatology* will provide a strong voice and conscience for the Section. The goal for the journal is to assist its members' pursuit of knowledge; to enhance their understanding of newborn medicine; to rationalize practice based on rigorously obtained, sound evidence; and to improve outcomes. I urge Section members to provide input on both the editorial content and scope of the journal. In addition, I encourage readers to examine and question the evidence on which you currently base your interventions in the Newborn Intensive Care Unit. Remember the writings of Michel Eyquem de Montaigne who stated, "*nothing is so firmly believed as what is least known.*" Identify problematic areas in which evidence is deficient and design trials to fill the gaps in our knowledge. I encourage you to submit the evidence you have developed to your new Section journal, for, as Ralph Waldo Emerson stated, "*the excellent is now forever.*"