

From the Editor's Desk

We have now published *Genetics in Medicine* for 1 year, and it is time for a report on the condition of the journal. Let me affirm that our College journal is alive and well even though it has typical start-up growing pains. In all, seven issues were published in Volume 1, starting with the inaugural issue in late 1998, and these contained 34 original articles and brief reports, five reviews, three College policy statements, and the annual meeting program and abstracts. Taken as a whole, we have been happy with the quality of the papers, and we hope that the College membership agrees. This was a good beginning.

With the view that genetics plays a central role in medicine through the prediction and prevention of disease and the promotion of public health, our mission continues to be the enhancement of the integration of genetic knowledge into medical practice and the provision of a forum for genetic education in medicine. The Editors worked hard with me to focus the content and scope of the Volume of *Genetics in Medicine* on this mission. They all have much to do in their paying jobs, yet they devoted great energy and effort to the success of the journal, and the College membership should, as I do, applaud their work.

There were however some problems encountered with being a start-up journal. For instance, the publication timing of each issue was somewhat irregular, primarily because of the low manuscript flow, ongoing development of editorial office policies and procedures, and the initiation of a reviewer database. The limited submission of manuscripts, particularly from College members, is a major hurdle. We want College members to look to *Genetics in Medicine* as a recognized and cited journal, but we acknowledge their reluctance to publish in a new, unknown journal that has not been included in the major indexing services. However, this is changing and *Genetics in Medicine* will now be indexed by the Institute of Scientific Information (ISI) in Current Contents/Life Sciences. We plan to be included in the index services, publish each issue of Volume 2 on a regular schedule, and will work hard to acquire outstanding manuscripts. We need your help to make this journal a success. We need you to submit your best manu-

scripts to *Genetics in Medicine*. Please consider *Genetics in Medicine* for publication of your work now and in the coming years.

On another level, have you noticed the cover art appearing on the front of *Genetics in Medicine*? Our initial plan was to use cover illustrations that came from a paper in an issue, but that did not always work. We had the opportunity to use the photograph of an original handmade genetics quilt on the cover of Issue 3, and we reprinted an original oil painting created by a scientist on Issue 7. We will continue to take most cover illustrations from the published paper but will also look elsewhere. I propose to our artistically inclined college members to present artwork to be used on our cover and include artwork with their submitted manuscripts.

In the current year, *Genetics in Medicine* goes online. This is exciting and vital for several reasons. First, HighWire Press at Stanford University has been selected to create an online version of the journal, with a September, 2000, launch date. HighWire Press is the premier online press whose current online journals include Science and Circulation. High Wire's quality and experience working with scientific journals and their apparent recognition of what services are vital to journals and its readership are definite pluses. Second, the availability of *Genetics in Medicine* online through HighWire will have a dramatic effect on our "primary goals of increasing visibility, readership and functionality and impact among our members and subscribers." Third, our membership and subscribers will have direct online access and their will be an introductory period for those who want to sample *Genetics in Medicine*.

One final note, we want to thank the 116 individuals who served the journal as reviewers for Volume 1. The success of a peer-reviewed journal is, in large part, based on the willingness of many to look at manuscripts critically and constructively, and to commit their thoughts and ideas to paper. We have been fortunate in our first year.

Richard A. King, MD, PhD
Editor-in-Chief