Editorial

This American issue of *Paraplegia* is another landmark in the modern day history of treatment of spinal cord injury that was started by Sir Ludwig Guttmann in 1943 when he began developing the National Centre at Stoke-Mandeville. Sir Ludwig had many accomplishments in his life, but I believe the three most significant were the development of categorical management of spinal cord injury, the founding of the international wheelchair games, and the publication of *Paraplegia*. All of this took place at Stoke-Mandeville Hospital. As the development of the categorical concept matured, it was only natural that it would be developed by other centres, not only in the U.K. but around the world. The second of Sir Ludwig Guttmann's significant accomplishments, the wheelchair games, has also matured and are now held at different locations around the world. It is the natural evolution that now the third of his significant accomplishments, the Journal of *Paraplegia* should become a truly international journal with this, the inaugural non-U.K. issue. The American Spinal Injury Association is proud to participate in this endeavour.

Since its founding 13 years ago, the American Spinal Injury Association (ASIA) has been interested in finding a method of academic expression. Six years ago, the Board of Directors of ASIA began researching the opportunities. Initially three courses were explored: the publication of its own journal on a quarterly basis; the publication of a bulletin; and cooperation with the Journal of *Paraplegia*. The decision was made at that time to proceed with the development of a bulletin which has been accomplished. This has proved to be the correct decision as it subsequently developed there were not enough scientific papers developed within the membership of ASIA to produce a journal on a regular basis. Over the last 5 years, several of the papers presented to the American Spinal Injury Association's meetings have been published in the bulletin, but certainly not with the degree of review and referencing that is required in *Paraplegia*.

Three years ago, with the cooperation of Mr Phillip Harris and about the time it was determined that a new format would be developed for the Journal of *Paraplegia*, the first cooperative effort between the two associations was undertaken with the publication of the abstracts of the annual meeting of ASIA.

Conversations continued between the Publications Committee of ASIA and the Editorial Board of *Paraplegia* about producing an all U.S. issue. An agreement was reached for this to take place at the Editorial Board Meeting held in Edinburgh in 1985. The effort represented by this issue is a culmination of all the foregoing and represents the inauguration of a policy to have subsequent yearly issues published by different member countries of the International Society.

Just as the International Medical Society of Paraplegia has been broadening its horizons and improving the cooperation of its members by alternating the annual meeting site, so now *Paraplegia* joins the ranks of international cooperation for the betterment of treatment of those patients whom we all serve throughout the world. We are proud to be a part of this inaugural event and hope it will set the tone for further cooperative efforts.

David F. Apple, Jr., M.D.
Associate Editor