New Beginnings

This month marks the beginning of my tenure as Editor-in-Chief of our Foundation’s journal, Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery. It is a time of personal excitement and enthusiasm for me, an opportunity to influence how otolaryngologist–head and neck surgeons around the world share information with each other and interconnect to access knowledge for research, education, and patient care. It is a changing time in health financing and policy, in media and communication platforms, in physician employment models, and in methods of care delivery to patients and communities.

Before we embark on this journey together, I first want to thank those many people who make Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery the foremost publication for sharing knowledge in our specialty. Behind every issue of the journal, numerous individuals spend countless hours in developing, reviewing, preparing, and publishing the articles that you read in print or online in digital formats. I would first like to thank the authors who show our journal the confidence of submitting their personal works for consideration of publication. It is truly a privilege for us to review thousands of manuscripts annually from both the United States and internationally and to have the honor of seeing the best and most influential research in our specialty. Next I would like to thank our hundreds of reviewers, who conduct the peer review process for consideration of manuscripts. They give of their time to evaluate these papers, with the goal of ensuring that the research is accurate, appropriate, valuable, relevant, and free from bias. They make recommendations to the editorial staff that are critical in their decisions to accept or reject these manuscripts.

I would next like to thank our Editorial Boards, both international and domestic, for providing insight and strategic wisdom in enhancing the journal’s mission and in continuing to guide its path in a time of rapid changes in how readers interact with journals and other professional media. These members sense the pulse of the specialty of otolaryngology–head and neck surgery worldwide, the experience of practicing in both community-based and academic environments, and an understanding of the process of preparing and publishing medical and scientific communications.

Of our dedicated editorial staff, I want to thank and recognize our group of Associate Editors, without whom we certainly could not conduct a timely and informed peer review process. These individuals have distinguished themselves by sustained involvement with the journal as authors, reviewers, and members of the Editorial Board. Many have been Star Reviewers for the journal, demonstrating both outstanding quality and productivity in their reviewing activities. Our Associate Editors first assess submitted manuscripts in their areas of content expertise and then assign these papers to 2 or more reviewers for an in-depth evaluation of their quality and relevance. They provide an initial decision on the disposition of the manuscript and offer information to the Editor-in-Chief that facilitates an appropriate decision on acceptance or rejection. These individuals devote many hours to this important task and deserve special recognition.

In addition to our reviewers and editors, I would also like to thank our editorial office professionals in Alexandria, Virginia, who provide the day-to-day support and leadership in managing the journal and preparing manuscripts for publication. Special thanks to Senior Director of Communication, Kathy Lewis; Director of Communications and Publications, Jeanne McIntyre; Journal Managing Editor, Collin Grabarek; and Journal Assistant Managing Editor, Donna Epler, for their tireless work and their professionalism and expertise. While these individuals work quietly behind the scenes, they are the energy and dedication that allow the journal to be effective and successful.

I would also like to thank our journal publisher, SAGE Publications, for producing and disseminating our accepted manuscripts in both print and digital formats, for marketing the journal worldwide for use by physicians and other health professionals, and for leading the journal through this rapidly changing media landscape. SAGE’s expertise extends to all aspects of 21st-century medical and scientific communications, and I would expect to see novel methods for readers to interact with our journal content over the next several years. Special thanks to our Publishing Editor, Courtney Pugh, and her colleagues at SAGE.

Finally, and certainly not least, I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to our outgoing Editor-in-Chief, Dr Richard Rosenfeld. For those of you who have had the good fortune of working with Rich in one or more of his many roles, you know that his energy is boundless, his dedication to the specialty is unequaled, and his knowledge and wisdom are without...
parallel. Rich has led the journal for the past 8 years, and it has accomplished an incredible amount through his leadership. He has done this while at the same time developing and steering the guidelines process for the Foundation, consulting internationally on evidence-based medicine, serving as President of the American Society of Pediatric Otolaryngology, and chairing the Department of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery at SUNY Downstate Medical Center. More important, however, I am privileged to call Rich a friend. Most of our members and readers do not appreciate the extent of the exceptional contributions and leadership that Rich has offered, and the journal and the Academy owe him great thanks for all that he has done. Rich, thank you for your leadership, your guidance, and your friendship.

Over the next few months, I will be letting you know some of my thoughts for ways in which we can enhance the journal. We conducted a comprehensive 1-day journal strategic planning session in Alexandria in August, and many ideas and initiatives were discussed during that meeting. It is clear that we will continue to expand our digital footprint, to increase the number of ways that readers can interact with the journal’s content, and to look for approaches to capture the most current, relevant, and impactful knowledge that we can to guide both research and practice. We will have articles that discuss the role of health care reform and its impact on our specialty. We will provide forums that provide debate on novel and contrasting approaches to patient care, while still focusing on our commitment to evidence-based medicine and practice.

It is truly a privilege and a great honor to be selected as the Editor-in-Chief of our journal. We have a longstanding commitment at both the Academy and the journal to provide our members and readers with knowledge that allows them to deliver the best patient care. I enthusiastically look forward to leading the journal and to addressing the challenges ahead. All of us will continue to work together to make Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery the most read, used, and trusted journal in our specialty, both here in the United States and throughout the world. Heartfelt thanks to all of you who use and contribute to our journal!

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