

Standing Guard

As another year passes, I look back on the many words that have filled these pages over 12 months. The words reflect the labor and thought of hundreds of colleagues and comprise clinical anecdotes, case series, literature reviews, theoretical analyses, and clinical trials. Data are systematized and analyzed and conclusions drawn. What we print in these pages has the power to influence clinical practice and thus the lives of the many thousands of people who are our patients.

Almost every submission to this journal is intriguing and thought-provoking. Of course, we do not have the space to publish everything and must remember that the written word can mislead as well as inform. As in clinical practice, so too in editing, we struggle to blend science, wisdom, and judgment.

The *Journal* exists because of the hard work of its editorial and publishing staffs. As always, my deep gratitude and regard go to the people who keep us moving forward: Dr. John Shelton, Mr. Irving Shelton, Ms. Meg Waters, Ms. Judy Beach, and the rest of the publication staff in Memphis, and Ms. Heather Hopkins, Mr. Joseph Kaczynski, and Dr. Eric Reiman in Arizona. And to those unsung, unpaid, overworked, and extremely generous colleagues who give of their time and expertise to answer my incessant requests for reviews, a very grateful thank you. Finally, I wish health and success in the new year to *JCP*'s authors and readers and, through them, to the patients and family members whose lives they try to improve on a daily basis.

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