

Quill on Scalpel

Plume et scalpel

THE JOURNAL CHANGES: GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

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As articulated in my contribution to Editors' View in this issue (pages 444 and 445), Roger Keith, my Coeditor, has decided to step down. All of us at the *Canadian Journal of Surgery (CJS)* will miss him and his input, and we wish him well in his new endeavours.

The search for a new Coeditor was quite difficult when all Canadians in academic surgery were considered. However, it became quite easy when we looked at participation and interest and examined which disciplines are best represented by publication in the *CJS* and in which disciplines the bulk of clinical work is done in our operating rooms and hospitals across the country.

The accompanying table, which appeared in the Editors' View in February 1996, shows the importance of orthopedic and general surgery contributions to the *CJS*. Indeed, clinically, surgeons in these two specialties do about 70% of the operative procedures in Canada. Therefore, it was natural to ask Dr. James P. Waddell, at the time Book Review Editor for the Journal, if he would become Coeditor. He has enthusiastically accepted, despite some new responsibilities in his own career. Jim is the incoming President of the Canadian Or-

thopaedic Association (COA) and new selected head of orthopedics at the University of Toronto. He brings with him a commitment to the *CJS* and to his specialty that will be of value to the Journal as it continues to reach out to its constituency with new features and articles.

Together we have reorganized the Editorial Board; a glimpse at the masthead will indicate that it is now larger and more broadly based. The terms of some Board members end this year, and on the February masthead there will be one or two more changes, after which we expect the structure will be stable for the foreseeable future.

One of the key changes we wish to implement is the increased involvement of the Editorial Board in deci-

sions regarding acceptance and revision of articles, to make them more useful to our community. The process was outlined in the Editors' View of June 1966 (page 180). In brief, we have found that requests for revision, though sometimes extensive, have generally been met with thanks, even enthusiasm, and have resulted in better and more informative manuscripts. We intend to increase the input of the Board in this process. For this reason, to spread the tasks and maintain quality, we need more Board members. All manuscripts will be reviewed by one of the Board members, but decisions on acceptance, revision or rejection will remain the responsibility of the Coeditors.

It is a pleasure to welcome to the

Specialty	No. (and %) of articles		
	1993	1994	1995
All surgical disciplines	14 (13)	6 (7)	21 (17)
General surgery	39 (38)	29 (33)	37 (30)
Orthopedic surgery	16 (15)	19 (22)	36 (29)*
Cardiovascular and thoracic surgery	15 (14)	23 (28)†	17 (14)
Surgical oncology	5 (5)	2 (2)	7 (6)
Other surgical disciplines	15 (14)	7 (8)	7 (6)
Total articles	104	87	125

*Includes 12 symposium or supplement articles
†Includes 4 symposium or supplement articles

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Editorial Board Dr. Norman S. Schachar, Professor of Orthopedic Surgery at the University of Calgary and Chairman of the Publications Committee of the COA, and Dr. Robert S. Bell, Director of the University of Toronto Musculoskeletal Oncology Unit and orthopedic surgeon at the Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto. Dr. Cecil H. Rorabeck, Head of Orthopedics at the University of Western Ontario, has graciously agreed to an extension of his term on the Editorial Board, maintaining continuity of experience in orthopedics.

We also welcome Dr. Julius L. Stoller, Secretary of the Canadian Association of General Surgeons and Clinical Professor of Surgery at the University of British Columbia, and Dr. Réal Lapointe, Head of the He-

patobiliary Section at the Hôpital Saint-Luc and Professor of Surgery at the Université de Montréal.

Dr. Ray C.-J. Chiu has kindly agreed to replace Dr. Waddell as Book Review Editor.

It should be noted that although all of the past Coeditors have been general surgeons, the Canadian Association of General Surgeons has been very supportive of these latest changes. It is healthy that the *CJS*, which aims to represent all surgical activities, should have an orthopedic surgeon and a general surgeon at its helm. This represents not only the distribution of clinical work but also, increasingly, academic activities.

In the past, the Editorial Board met annually during the meeting of the Royal College of Physicians of Canada in September. However, with chang-

ing times and rapid communication, together with evolving publishing techniques and the need to develop series or features of value to our readers, we feel that at least two meetings a year are desirable. To facilitate attendance and participation, the Board will convene at the Royal College meeting in the fall, the meeting of the Canadian Orthopaedic Association Executive in January and, if necessary, the meeting of the Association of Canadian Medical Colleges or the COA in the spring. By rotating sites and times, everyone should be able to participate.

I continue to look forward to your input and hope you will communicate your thoughts and criticisms. I welcome our new Board members and Jim Waddell as the new Coeditor.