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Faculty Advisor's Column

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FACULTY ADVISOR'S COLUMN

This second issue of our resident journal enlarges our educational efforts in two important ways. The first is obvious. As you can see, we have published this forum in an attractive new format. This is highlighted by the new cover designed by Dr. Jeffrey Sarnoff. The second piece of progress is our enlarged audience. In addition to our own Jefferson faculty and residents, the Journal is now being distributed to psychiatrists throughout Pennsylvania. For both of these improvements in form we are indebted to the Mead Johnson Pharmaceutical Division for their generous sponsorship.

Lest one be concerned about the proverbial 'cover' of the book, I am pleased that the content of this issue continues to demonstrate the quality and depth of our residents' work. Under the talented leadership of this year's chief editor, Dr. Karl Doghramji, the Editorial Board consisting of Drs. John Dorn, Sharon Riser, Jeffrey Sarnoff, and James Stanch, has performed admirably in gathering and editing the articles. The dedication of these editors though would be for naught were it not for the efforts of the contributing residents. It is to these residents again that we must express our appreciation. They allow us to see the world of patients and ideas through their eyes even as we contribute to the sharpening of their vision. Their work as evidenced in this issue of the *Journal* enlightens us all.

In an overall sense there are two themes in this issue. Drs. Dorn and Stanch present intriguing material on state of the art psychobiological theory and treatment. Their appreciation of the molecular bases of major psychiatric dysfunction is quite thorough and stimulating. Drs. Buxbaum, Doenlen and Miller present material on the psychological basis of emotional conflict. While each of these latter papers is certainly different, in all of them the authors demonstrate their sensitivity to their patient's unconscious functioning. I would draw the reader's attention though to a particularly refreshing theme common to these papers. In all three, the authors reveal some aspect of their own internal processes and acknowledge its impact on their work with patients. It is a delight to see this often minimized facet of our work presented with such honest clarity.

The potential union of the organic and dynamic perspectives is discussed in thought provoking detail in Dr. Scola's paper. His ideas challenge the comfortable niches we tend to assign ourselves to and force us to examine the boundaries of our theoretical constructs.

All the articles in this issue bring a unique perspective to our psychiatric thinking. As such, they inevitably will be controversial. In the interests of encouraging and exploring dialogue we have inaugurated our Letters to the Editor section in this issue. We welcome comments from all of our readers and look forward to a stimulating exchange of thinking.

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