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Editor's Column

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Editor's Column

Jeffrey R. Sarnoff, M.D.

As this issue of the Journal goes to press, it seems apt to reflect upon several years of editorship. An esteemed colleague, Gregory B. Sullivan, M.D., is in the process of taking over the responsibilities of Chief Editor; the Journal is in able hands as I move on to other endeavors.

Since its inception nearly five years ago, the Journal has flourished, riding out occasional rough weather in its course from a local to a national publication. Many residents and faculty members have worked with spirit and diligence to foster its growth; I am thankful for this participation. It has been a privilege to edit this Journal, and there is sadness in leaving, for much emotion has been invested in this experience. It is not only that a scientific enterprise has grown; so too have personal relationships that, in the end, sustain the meaning of this work. The Journal has succeeded because people have believed in it, had faith that it should exist, indeed must exist. I have faith that the Journal will continue toward excellence.

What role, however, should faith play in the working of a scientific journal? Science, after all, is not built upon faith, yet does not advance without it. Paul Tillich, in his classic book, *Dynamics of Faith* (1), writes that "Faith is the state of being ultimately concerned," that ultimate concern encompasses an urgent need for a promise of fulfillment, derived from some unconscious demand. Faith, a conscious act, an expression of unconscious elements, can exist when freedom exists, where freedom, according to Tillich, is "the possibility of centered personal acts." Scientific inquiry is possible when, given faith and freedom, man can accept the space between what is finite and what is not—the space where uncertainty lies—with courage and daring. The uncertainty that is doubt is the force behind science; when faith is mistakenly equated with the absence of doubt, science fails.

The authors and editors whose work appears in this Journal have grappled with doubt and undertaken risk, placing faith in our respective efforts. The original concept behind a residents' journal, that there should be a place for us to publish, has been validated. The most gratifying and enjoyable part of my job as Chief Editor has been to work with authors and editors, through the process of peer review, to arrive at the papers presented here. Authors have taken risks in putting pen to paper, and have been courageous enough to work with our editors in the process of revising. Our editors have worked to make other residents' manuscripts the highest possible quality. I believe that this issue, the end result, has attained not only the circulation, but also the quality, of a fine national journal.

I encourage you to keep faith in this work, to write passionately about what concerns you ultimately, to expand upon what seems finite, to question what seems unquestionable. It is in this way that science will go forward and our experience will be enriched.

REFERENCE

1. Tillich P: Dynamics of Faith. New York, Harper & Row, 1957