Editorial

The Journal of Child Neurology and Child Neurology: Growing Together

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Nearly three years ago, child neurology was given its first voice in North America with the nearly simultaneous founding of the Journal of Child Neurology and Pediatric Neurology. Although successfully articulating child neurology concerns over these three years, the Journal of Child Neurology was actually conceived over 5 years ago when the visionary publisher and president of PSG Publishing Company, Dr Frank N. Paparello, recognized the need for a scientific periodical devoted to child neurology. It had then been 25 years since Dr Pearce Bailey, Jr called the famous conclave at the National Institutes of Health that gave birth to child neurology as a formal discipline, 15 years since the first American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology certifications in child neurology, and just over 10 years since the founding of the Child Neurology Society.

Through that quarter century our fledgling specialty had spoken only when permitted by the sufferance of its neurologic parents and older siblings. The Child Neurology Society had become affiliated with the prestigious Annals of Neurology. This affiliation was (and continues to be) financially rewarding for the Child Neurology Society, with the royalties providing a substantial portion of the operating budget of the Society. In addition, the abstracts from the annual meeting published in the Annals could reach a large general neurology audience. However, a majority of the members of the Child Neurology Society found the Annals unfulfilling, because it did not give expression to child neurology. The four other publications relating to pediatric neurosciences also suffered from lack of real identity with child neurology. The redoubtable British publication Developmental Medicine and Child Neurology (founded in 1958) served as the official publication of the Spastics Society of London and of the American Academy for Cerebral Palsy. Its distinctly developmental/behavioral tone reduced its appeal to North American child neurologists who were more chemistry/physiology/anatomy oriented. That same problem afflicted the newer behavioral pediatrics publication Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics (the official journal of the Society for Behavioral Pediatrics). European journals, such as Neuropediatrics (formerly titled Neuropaediatrica) and Child's Brain (subsequently titled Pediatric Neuroscience) appeared irregularly, were expensive, and published few articles from North American authors. At the time, only samples of the new Pediatric Neurology were available.

Dr Paparello recruited Dr Brumback, then at the University of Rochester, to found and develop the Journal of Child Neurology. The twenty-nine members of the Editorial Board of JCN enlisted in loco parentis to the healthy birth and maturation of this specialty journal. This group of internationally recognized clinician-scientists included 12 child neurologists (six from the US and one each from Canada, France, England, Sweden, Australia, and Japan), five pediatric neurosurgeons, two child psychiatrists, two pediatric neuropathologists, two pediatric neuropsychologists, two developmental pediatricians, one pediatric neuroradiologist, one pediatric orthopedist, and two general neurologists. The 1985 announcement of JCN and call for papers elicited a warmly positive response from the child neurology community. Our initial plan

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was to begin publication of volume 1 of JCN in October 1985. However, the survival of any scientific journal today requires abstraction and indexing by major services such as Index Medicus, Citation Index, and Current Contents. When Mr Eugene Garfield of the Institute for Scientific Information (the publisher of Current Contents and Citation Index) communicated the headaches of trying to index journals that run a single volume over two successive calendar years, we elected to begin JCN at the start of 1986.

During its first year, JCN had a 386-page volume containing 44 articles, along with book reviews, announcements, and a lively correspondence section. The third issue (July 1986) saw the move of the editorial office of JCN to the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, publication of the abstracts from the Fourth International Child Neurology Congress (held in Jerusalem), and the appointments of Drs John B. Bodensteiner and Robert M. Shuman as Associate Editors. Dr Bodensteiner assumed primary responsibility for review articles and Dr Shuman for book reviews. By the end of the first year, accepted articles were backlogged, subscriptions were increasing, advertisers showed more interest in supporting the journal financially, and Current Contents, Excerpta Medica, and Psychological Abstracts included JCN in their indexing services. Several JCN articles became standard reference citations. Work in the editorial office of JCN was delightful due to the many high quality papers that poured in, making it easy to fill the pages of each issue.

During its second year, JCN published 46 articles in a 330-page volume. Index Medicus and MEDLINE accepted JCN for indexing, both advertising and subscriptions continued to grow, and the publisher developed a program of complimentary subscriptions for senior child neurology residents. Short vignettes were introduced, and the first annual Philip Rogers Dodge Lecture, given by Dr Hugo Moser, was published in the April issue. No journal had ever offered space to publish the lectures given by the distinguished winners of the John B. Hower Award for Pediatric Neurology, presented at the annual meeting of the Child Neurology Society since 1974. We approached the 1986 Hower Awardee, Dr Jean Aicardi, to prepare his lecture for publication in JCN, and Dr G. Dean Timmons prepared an introduction. This stimulated the Child Neurology Society to offer subsequent awardees publication of the lecture in its official journal.

What does the future hold for JCN? We are pleased with the positive critical acceptance from the child neurology community, manifested by the increasing number of subscriptions, submissions, citations, and advertisements. The Editorial Board added an additional 13 child neurologists during 1986, making it the unequaled editorial standard. A supplementary issue on Rett syndrome and autism, sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and the International Rett Syndrome Association, has been developed and edited by Drs Hugo W. Moser and Richard H. Haas. More supplementary issues on specific topics are both in the execution and in the planning phases. We anticipate increasing recognition and interdependence as both JCN and our specialty continue to mature.

References