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The Founding of a Journal

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Effective with this July 2002 issue, Dr. Robert Rodriguez of the Alameda County Medical Center (Highland) emergency medicine residency program in Oakland has assumed the Editor-in-Chief position for *The California Journal of Emergency Medicine*. I congratulate Rob on his assuming this role, and I would like to take a moment to reflect upon some of the trials and tribulations encountered during the founding of a new journal.

In May 2000, the CAL/AAEM Board of Directors met for a board meeting during the SAEM meeting in San Francisco. I proposed to the board that CAL/AAEM begin a new peer reviewed journal as a means of providing high quality, clinical and medical practice educational material to emergency physicians in California. Although the electronic media, that is primarily e-mail, was the major means for communication among California AAEM members at that time, I felt a more permanent journal that included peer review would help provide an important basis for the practice of emergency medicine in California. After a brief discussion, the board endorsed my proposal and named me as the founding Editor-in-Chief.

I returned to Sacramento and quickly planned the first issue of the new journal. In addition to the President's Message, I felt that it should also contain other communications from CAL/AAEM such as the legislative update and meeting notices. I also felt strongly that it should have current and relevant clinical practice articles and original research. I also felt that the journal should be indexed by volume, with one volume a year and numbered not by issue, but by total volume— as occurs with other peer-reviewed journals.

We printed the first issue in July of 2000, which consisted of four pages. I spent hours driving through 100 degree plus Sacramento heat to various stationery stores determining which size of paper, texture, color, weight and thickness would print the best without bleeding through and still fold easily. Only then did I learn that the science of paper is a science unto itself. Formatting the first issue proved difficult and learning the new quirks of the software program PageMaker was a challenge at best. We succeeded in distributing our first issue through the national AAEM office in Milwaukee, and at the same time I solicited for additional articles, as well as identified reviewers to critique the newly submitted articles to the journal. In October 2000, we expanded from four pages to eight pages and again printed the journal from presses in Sacramento. We had the new challenge of manually collating these eight pages in proper order and preventing pages from being placed upside down. As easy as this sounds, it was an extremely time consuming process.

However, as the journal expanded in the number of submissions, scope, complexities, and length of articles, I found that I could no longer be both in the business of serving as Editor-in-Chief, as well as Production Chief, printer and distributor.

Antoine Kazzi, MD, came to the rescue. Antoine, who was President of CAL/AAEM at the time, volunteered to do both printing and distribution of the journal. The January 2001 issue, Volume II, Number 1 was another landmark in the history of the journal. The journal expanded to 12 pages, included letters to the editor, as well as responses, and had four high-quality articles within its cover. In addition, the journal was transmitted electronically to Dr. Antoine Kazzi in Southern California who arranged for the printing, collating, labeling, and mailing. Without this help from Dr. Kazzi and support from the UC Irvine Department of Emergency Medicine, the journal would have no doubt continued to be a fledgling four to eight page journal with a limited distribution of 200. Now our distribution approaches 3,000.

Since January 2001, the journal has continued to grow in popularity, scope of articles, and number of submissions. We have developed a fine editorial board and a number of associate editors. The journal serves as a vehicle for information exchange for CAL/AAEM.

I have enjoyed the past two years serving as Editor-in-Chief for this journal. However, ED overcrowding and the increasing academic demands of Emergency Medicine at UC Davis have made it impossible for me to simultaneously serve as Chief of Emergency Medicine and Editor-in-Chief of *The California Journal of Emergency Medicine*. I am confident that the journal will continue to evolve under Rob's new leadership.

I am hopeful that not too long from now, the journal will be printed on fine, magazine-type paper, have a distribution to all emergency physicians in the Western United States, and be indexed and recognized by Medicine, the NIH, and other great national and international libraries. I look forward to seeing more original research studies in print and contributions by all persons who help in the continued evolution of the science of emergency medicine, namely its nurses, physician assistants, and paramedics, in addition to actively practicing and emergency physicians in training. Your support as a reader and contributor to this journal are greatly appreciated. I will continue to serve as Associate Editor for the Infectious Disease Section and look forward to your submissions.