



Thomas C. Meyer, MD

Editorial

Milestone sparks reflection

Thomas C. Meyer, MD, Wisconsin Medical Journal Medical Editor

When the Editorial Board met in the fall of 2003 we were surprised to hear that the *Wisconsin Medical Journal* had been around for a century. I'm not sure that any of us had given thought to the longevity of the publication. We were firmly lodged in the present: meeting to review what feedback we had had from the readers, add our personal perceptions, select themes for 2004 and get along home to our various cities across the state.

But the news of the centennial influenced the selection of an "anniversary issue" that would, at least, provide some background to the birth of the *Journal*. And as we proceeded with the issue, we received a number of interesting articles about the history of medicine in Wisconsin. We also came up with some interesting ideas, including a "guess the publication year" of a selection of titles and authors of some comparatively recent articles in previous issues of the *Journal*, as well as some interesting items from past issues. The last page of the issue also has another "Looking Back," which has been a regular feature all year. We hope you will find items of interest in the invited and the historical papers, beginning with Earl Thayer's lucid outline of the beginning of the *Journal* and its early history (p 13).

The first of the special historical papers is from Dr Cerletty (p 25), describing the maladies and the therapeutic options available to practicing

physicians in the early 18th century. This paper leaves one relieved that things have progressed since then. His companion paper (p 28) outlining the early attempts to provide structured medical education and the effects of the Flexner Report makes instructive reading for the broken down medical educator who is the medical editor. Doctor Engbring's brief history of the Medical College of Wisconsin (p 33) provides the more recent history of the College.

Doctors Hansotia and Reynolds' history of neurology in Wisconsin reminds us of some of the giants of early neuroanatomy that are best remembered by their names being attached to structures or conditions from medical school days—Magendie, Golgi, Virchow, Alzheimer, Charcot, Erb—as well as those whose names and achievements were missed by at least this reader—Quincke, Berger and Hammond (p 37).

And we were delighted to receive Dr Foregger's reminiscences of 60+ years of anesthesiology practice in Milwaukee (p 42).

In our peer-reviewed section, Dr Scheckler and his colleagues describe the Class Mentor Program, which has run successfully at the University of Wisconsin Medical School for almost 20 years (p 46). An experienced clinician re-enters medical school with the first-year class (on a half-time basis) and provides a unique perspective to his or her "classmates." Doctor Beasley and his colleagues discuss the qual-

ity of work life of family physicians employed by Wisconsin health care organizations as reflected in the collated responses to a survey completed by almost half of 1482 physicians surveyed (p 51).

Ms Young and her colleagues describe the use of focus groups to generate recommendations for the improvement of the fraying managed care safety net that provides health care to the indigent population in Milwaukee that was formerly served by County Hospital (p 56).

Doctors Brotzman and Shellhase report the excellent colposcopy record of one of the authors who has accumulated significant experience with the procedure over the years (p 61).

We are always pleased to receive reports of interesting and instructive cases and the report of the effect of cocaine abuse on the renal artery provided by Dr Edmonson et al is of particular interest (p 66). In fact, we hope to encourage readers to submit more such reports and that interesting case reports will become a regular feature in coming issues. There is also much of interest in the report of the Proceedings of the 2004 Primary Care Research Forum (p 71).

Finally, we would like to draw your attention to the 2005 Editorial Calendar on page 36. We have been pleased by the tremendous response we've had to some of our 2004 themes, and we hope these choices will garner such enthusiasm.