

Change of the Guard at RESPIRATORY CARE: Thanks to Dr Pierson and Welcome to Dr Hess

This issue is very special to many of us. It marks the last issue for which David Pierson MD FAARC serves as editor in chief of RESPIRATORY CARE. Dr Pierson was the first physician editor of the Journal and only the fifth editor the Journal has had since it was first published 51 years ago.

As publisher of the Journal, I want to take this opportunity to thank Dr Pierson for all he's done to improve the publication over the last 10 years.

During Dr Pierson's tenure as editor in chief, great strides have been taken to increase the relevance and reach of RESPIRATORY CARE. Most notably, we were able to obtain inclusion in Index Medicus, which ended a 30-year quest. Today, RESPIRATORY CARE stands with other medical journals in the National Library of Medicine.

Dr Pierson helped bring the Journal into the 21st century. Abstracts of Journal articles are available online through several services throughout the world. Full-text articles are available for all American Association for Respiratory Care members and subscribers. International participation has increased. The number of manuscripts submitted to the Journal has rocketed because of the stature and relevance of the publication. Even the daily systems of manuscript review, revision, and finalization have been streamlined in order to leverage cyberspace to the maximum.

Over the last 10 years, awareness of RESPIRATORY CARE has increased exponentially around the world. Dr Pierson has served not just as Editor in Chief but also as the Journal's international ambassador. His activities throughout the world have resulted in a greater appreciation of the value of the Journal to a host of caregivers, not just respiratory therapists.

We have a lot to build on in the future, due in no small part to the efforts of Dr Pierson.

I recall that when Dr Pierson was interviewed for the position of editor, he asked about the Journal's mission and was gratified to learn that it focuses on assisting all professionals interested in providing excellent respiratory care to their patients. The Journal has helped professionals help their patients. And the Journal has a solid foundation in terms of its recognition of excellence and the relevant and practical information contained in the published manuscripts.

This issue is also special because it's time to welcome our new editor in chief, Dean Hess PhD RRT FAARC. Dean has been working closely with Dr Pierson for several years. Thus, there will be continuity for the Journal, its staff, and contributors. Dean has many years of experience as a practitioner and has authored many manuscripts in a variety of peer-reviewed science journals.

I know that the Journal and many of the traditions that Dr Pierson established will thrive under Dean's leadership, but I also know that the bar has been set high by Dr Pierson, and he will remain engaged with the Journal as editor emeritus. No, Dr Pierson is not retiring. And, yes, he will continue to assist you as you provide care for your patients.

The continued teamwork between Drs Hess and Pierson will assure that the Journal's philosophy will engender the same values and that the transition will be seamless. Please watch for Dean's first editorial as editor in chief in the March 2008 issue.

For now, I want you to join me in congratulating Dr Pierson on 10 years of excellent leadership for the Journal, but, more importantly, to thank him for all the time and effort he has put forth on behalf of respiratory care patients all over the world through his efforts to increase the reach and impact of RESPIRATORY CARE, the science journal of the American Association for Respiratory Care.

Thanks for everything, Dave. We are in your debt.

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