

Continued Updates to *Anesthesia Progress*

This past January officially marked the start of my sixth year serving as editor of *Anesthesia Progress*, a journey that has been both enjoyable and challenging. The journal has seen several changes throughout my tenure, and this year appears to be no different. Along with its editorial board, the journal is undergoing some noteworthy updates, of which some are exciting and others quite bittersweet.

With the recent passing of Stuart E. Lieblich, DMD, the journal lost a significant long-standing editorial board member. Among his multitude of achievements, Dr Lieblich was a past president of the American Dental Society of Anesthesiology (ADSA) and had countless publications and contributions within the fields of sedation and anesthesia for dentistry and oral surgery as well as patient safety. As evidenced by the moving words of his obituary found within this issue of *Anesthesia Progress*, Dr Lieblich was the consummate professional in every sense and will be greatly missed.

Morton B. Rosenberg, DMD, another generational talent and cornerstone of the ADSA, will also be moving off the editorial board as he delves further into his well-deserved retirement. Together with Joel M. Weaver, DDS, PhD, Dr Rosenberg helped ensure the viability and vitality of *Anesthesia Progress* during the 1990s and 2000s, a tumultuous prespecialty era for dental anesthesiology. Dr Rosenberg's substantial influence and legacy within the ADSA simply cannot be overstated, and his absence will echo throughout the organization and beyond.

While the voids left by the departures of Drs Lieblich and Rosenberg are vast, I am happy to announce that James A. Phero, DDS, MD, and Mana Saraghi, DMD, have agreed to serve in their stead. Dr Phero obtained his dental degree at the University of North Carolina (UNC). He then earned his medical degree at UNC, where he also completed his oral and maxillofacial surgery residency. He is currently serving as a full-time clinical assistant professor at the University of Cincinnati, where he works as a board-certified oral and maxillofacial surgeon. No stranger to the ADSA, Dr Phero also serves on its board of directors and has been a frequent lecturer for their review courses and course faculty for its simulation courses.

Dr Saraghi obtained her dental degree at the University of Pennsylvania before completing her dental anesthesiology residency at Jacobi Medical Center/Albert Einstein College of Medicine, where she now serves as a full-time clinical associate professor and board-certified dentist anesthesiologist. Dr Saraghi is the current program director overseeing the dental anesthesiology residency at Jacobi Medical Center, and, as of April 2024, is the immediate past president of the American Dental Board of Anesthesiology.

On behalf of the ADSA and the *Anesthesia Progress* Editorial Board, I express our sincere gratitude to Drs Lieblich and Rosenberg for their invaluable service. I also extend the warmest of welcomes to Drs Phero and Saraghi, both of whom will undoubtedly exceed all expectations. On a personal level, I have long utilized their thoughts and expertise as peer reviewers and feel they are extremely well qualified to help guide the journal into the future as active members of its editorial board. I certainly anticipate leaning on them as we continue the work of improving the journal.

I am also happy to announce that *Anesthesia Progress* is initiating the process to obtain an impact factor (IF). The application procedure is multilayered and is expected to take several years. However, after many discussions with the journal's publisher, I am happy to report that we are striving to formally begin the work within the year. For those unfamiliar, IF is a metric calculated by Clarivate that can be used to help measure a journal's relevance. It is a numerical value derived from the number of articles cited over a set time. In essence, the higher the IF, the higher a journal's rank. Additional information on IFs along with an overview of the application timeline is presented in an article by Dr Takuro Sanuki et al that can be found in the Commentary section of this issue.

Many academic institutions, particularly those in Asia, hold journals with IFs in higher regard than those without. However, comparing journals based explicitly on IFs is rather tricky and nuanced, as the devil is in the details. A journal like *Anesthesia Progress* has a narrow focus and resides within a small niche of health care literature. Even if we are ultimately successful in this endeavor, it is unlikely that the journal will ever generate an IF anywhere near as high as those of other medical or dental journals with more generalized scopes. Nonetheless, obtaining an IF for the journal has long been an objective, as evinced by my editorial predecessors' efforts, and I am confident that recent modifications to the Clarivate application process should enable us to achieve our goals.

As your editor, I strive to deliver a journal of the highest quality, and I feel that the newest additions to our editorial board, Drs Phero and Saraghi, demonstrate the excellence and diligence necessary to help accomplish that goal. The assignment of an IF will be a further representation of the merit of *Anesthesia Progress*, and I will periodically apprise readers of our efforts to this end. Each of these updates reflects the perpetual growth and improvement of the journal, an endeavor the editorial board takes very seriously. We hope these changes will be felt favorably by the readership and that the content of *Anesthesia Progress* will continue to impact our practices and patients in a positive manner.

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