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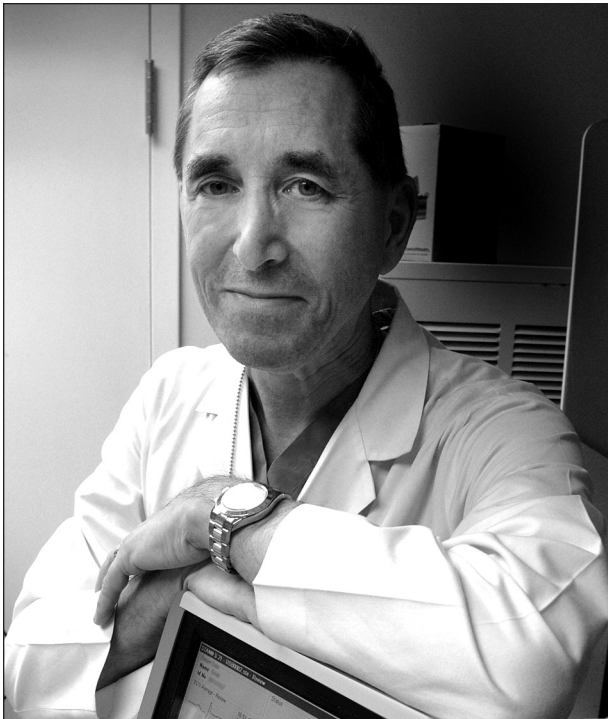
## *The Journal of Reproductive Medicine<sup>®</sup>*

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## A Note from the Editor-in-Chief

Lawrence D. Devoe, M.D.

Welcome to the November-December 2021 Editorial Page. This note will serve as my 132nd and final contribution to *The Journal of Reproductive Medicine* as the Editor-in-Chief, a position that I have had



Lawrence D. Devoe, M.D., Editor-in-Chief

the privilege of occupying for the past 17 years. The end of the year is a traditional time for reflection on the previous year or, in my case, on a long journey that began in 1968, the year that this Journal was started by the late Frederick P. Zuspan at the University of Chicago, where he was Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. At that time, I was a third-year medical student at the University of Chicago School of Medicine and met Dr. Zuspan during my OBGYN rotation. The following year he was to play a major role in my personal and professional life by convincing me to change my career path from general surgery to OBGYN. Dr. Zuspan also instilled in me the unflagging interest in medical literature, clinical and basic research, the education of medical students and residents, and the desire to investigate areas in our field that were still in their infancy, like electronic fetal monitoring. After my OBGYN residency was completed, he encouraged me to pursue a fellowship in the newly designated field of Maternal-Fetal Medicine and, in so doing, to become the first such fellow at the University of Chicago. Even after my formal training was completed, Dr. Zuspan remained my life-long mentor, a relationship that continued until his death in 2009.

When Dr. Zuspan left the University of Chicago in 1976 to become OBGYN Chair at the Ohio State University School of Medicine, Ms. Donna Kessel, his former administrative assistant, took over

the responsibilities of publishing the Journal and moved its headquarters to St. Louis, Missouri. Thanks to her encouragement, I was appointed to JRM's Editorial Board in 1984, the year after I had left Chicago to become Director of Maternal-Fetal Medicine at the Medical College of Georgia. For the next two decades I served the Journal by reviewing manuscripts submitted for publication and as an occasional contributor of my own original manuscripts.

In 2004, with the retirement of the previous editor, Dr. George L. Wied (who died later that year), Ms. Kessel promoted me from co-Editor-in-Chief (with Dr. Wied) to Editor-in-Chief. I took this opportunity to reflect on how the circle of life had remained unbroken as I now assumed the role that Dr. Zuspan had started so many years before when we were both at the University of Chicago. I made some essential changes in the format of the Journal, including the addition of its first Editor-in-

Chief's page, where I highlighted manuscripts in each issue that I thought had special importance for our readers. I also used this page as an occasional forum to weigh in on significant problems that affected women's healthcare—most recently the COVID-19 pandemic—and to pay homage to notable figures in our field who had passed away.

Medical journal editors serve their readership best by letting the content of their journal speak for itself. Seventeen years is a long time for anyone to remain in this prestigious position, and I have enjoyed immensely my time at *The Journal of Reproductive Medicine*, as well as having learned much from its regularly published papers in disciplines other than my own subspecialty. I hope that my efforts as Editor-in-Chief have been appreciated by JRM's international readership over the years, and I will always be grateful for this opportunity afforded me by Donna Kessel and her loyal staff who have supported me in this role.