

## EDITORS' NOTE

We are pleased and honored to present the 2008 edition of *The Iowa Orthopaedic Journal (IOJ)*. As in previous years, this issue of the *IOJ* contains original works of research, surgical techniques, and case reports. It even contains encouragement from a past president of the American Academy of Orthopaedics.

Since the summer of 2007, when the *IOJ* became available in electronic format via Pubmed, its popularity has been growing. The number of downloads per month has averaged about 13,000, with a total number of downloads of over 100,000 in only seven months; the numbers seem to be increasing. This number is not representative of the number of times the *IOJ* is "hit" during literature searches, or the number of times abstracts are scanned. We are excited about what this means to the overall readership of the *IOJ* and dissemination of its articles.

As in previous years, this year we had a wide variety of submissions from a wide variety of locales, perhaps reflective of the increased electronic availability of the *IOJ*. We received submissions from across the globe, including the Middle East, western Europe, and the Caribbean. We also had many articles submitted from across the United States. Finally, we reviewed several articles from current faculty and residents. We would like to express our gratitude to everyone who submitted articles, as this assimilation of information serves to enrich the knowledge of all who pursue it.

We, as a collective group of residents, would also like to express our gratitude to the current group of graduating senior residents: Drs. Chang, Christiansen, Daines, Fairchild, and Lavery. Over the past five years, they have contributed much to each individual resident's assimilation of knowledge, whether in instruction in the operating room, Socratic questioning, or leading by example. While none of them would claim perfection in the realm of medicine, they certainly have demonstrated many attributes intrinsic to dedicated professionals from which less-experienced residents can learn much. We thank them for their hard work and the sacrifices they have made.

When mentioning sacrifice, hard work, and leading by example, one would be remiss if he or she did not recognize Tess Sommer. This year's edition of the *IOJ* is dedicated to her. For those who do not know her personally, she is the staff nurse assigned to clinical duties for the trauma team at the University of Iowa. Very quietly, and through endless, tireless hours, she keeps the trauma team functioning. Ask any summertime trauma chief about the contributions of Tess Sommer, and you'll hear one recurring theme . . . invaluable. Although her formal academic contributions to orthopaedics do not number substantially, her overall contribution to resident education and to the patients of the trauma team cannot be measured. She truly deserves to be lauded for her work, and she is an example for us all.

Clearly the *IOJ* would not be possible without those who are working behind the scenes. We would like to thank Diana Johannes for her many hours poring over articles and checking (and rechecking) our work. She surmounted the not-insignificant task of keeping manuscripts organized, submitting articles to our printer, and keeping us on task



with deadlines. As a note to next year's editors, she has a very sharp stick in her office that she uses as a motivator. All joking aside, working with Diana was a pleasure; she was the mother hen who kept us going in the right direction.

We also thank our corporate sponsors for their educational contributions to the *IOJ*. Amid turbulent times, while clarifying relationships between industry and orthopaedics, they were willing and forthright in their sponsorship of our education, not only with the *IOJ* but also with regard to patient care, and we thank them. Without their input and products, patient care in orthopaedics would be impossible.

Finally, we thank Dr. Jose Morcuende and Dr. Joseph Buckwalter for their mentorship and continued support of the *IOJ*. They act as our faculty advisors, and we are indebted to them for their input and leadership.

Congratulations to all who had input into putting together this year's *Iowa Orthopaedic Journal*. We hope your knowledge is deepened and your patient care is enriched by reading it.

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