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Chairman's Letter

The publication of the *Surgery of Childhood Including Orthopaedic Surgery* by DeForest Willard, M.D. in 1910 marked the first of many scientific contributions to medical literature by members of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. In 1984, Carl T. Brighton, M.D., Ph.D. and a group of the orthopaedic residents developed and edited the material which formed the inaugural issues of the *University of Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Journal* as "a forum for philosophical and controversial view points, as well as a summary of departmental and alumni news." This journal marked a new forum for scientific contributions by members of the house staff and faculty from the University of Pennsylvania to the medical literature. In a philosophical assessment of this new journal, Frederick S. Kaplan, M.D. summarized the thoughts of the founding resident editors and faculty advisors: ". . . we hope to see our department and to hear its voices, to document our creations and our reactions, to set sign posts at new intersections, to watch ourselves grow and develop, to record who we are and who we can become, to explore our common link and common heritage. . . ." It was their vision that the *University of Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Journal* should serve as a communication from Penn to its alumni and other interested individuals concerning innovative clinical material, novel observations from the McKay Orthopaedic Surgery Research Laboratory, and news from the faculty, house staff, and alumni. The journal proved to be a wonderful forum for abbreviated presentations of information that subsequently became featured articles in major orthopaedic journals.

The *University of Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Journal* developed a loyal following through the 9th edition published in 1993. With changes that occurred following the resignation of Carl T. Brighton as chair, there was limited energy and little enthusiasm for the development of subsequent issues.

The faculty and the residents began to develop this, the 10th volume of the *University of Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Journal*, in 1996. I believe that you will find the journal to meet the expectations of the founders. The focus of this issue of the journal is on the scientific observations, both clinical and basic, of the faculty and residents of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. The breadth and depth of the manuscript will provide new information which will be of interest to all of the friends of Penn. Your thoughts and comments are welcomed as we begin the process of developing the 11th issue, to be published in 1998.

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