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Letter from the Senior Editorial Advisor

The eleventh volume of *The University of Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Journal* expands the original thoughts and visions of the founding residents and faculty in four innovative ways: Expansion of the contributors to include members of the Penn Musculoskeletal Institute; inclusion of contributions by alumni; inclusion of a debate on the management of a current clinical disease; and laying the groundwork for inclusion of *The University of Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Journal* among the world's biomedical journals indexed by *Index Medicus* and MEDLINE.

The approval of the Penn Musculoskeletal Institute by the Board of Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania in 1996 permitted the department to develop a comprehensive program for the treatment of patients afflicted with disease or injuries of the musculoskeletal system. The Penn Musculoskeletal Institute will permit physicians from the Departments of Anesthesia, Internal Medicine, Neurology, Orthopaedic Surgery, Radiology, and Rehabilitation to integrate health care for patients. Thus, the inclusion of manuscripts by physicians from participating departments provides the journal with a broader agenda, representing the entire musculoskeletal system. This issue includes manuscripts with timely information by physicians from the Departments of Anesthesia, Internal Medicine, and Radiology. These contributions will enhance the information presented by the journal.

Graduates of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery have distinguished themselves in all of the subspecialties of Orthopaedic Surgery. This issue of the journal includes manuscripts from five graduates who present information in three diverse areas: Spine Surgery, hand surgery, and sports medicine. It also includes a commentary by Dr. Cuckler, who is both a graduate and a former member of the faculty.

There are many areas of orthopaedic surgery in which legitimate differences of opinion exist. In fact, there are more areas of disagreement than there are areas of agreement within the orthopaedic community. This issue of the journal introduces the concept of an editorial debate and commentary on the role of arthroscopy in the management of the patient with gonarthrosis. Future issues of the journal will address additional provocative therapeutic modalities in orthopaedic surgery.

In the tenth issue of *The University of Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Journal*, emphasis was placed upon the scientific observations, both clinical and basic, of the faculty and residents. The editors of the tenth and eleventh editions

began to develop the necessary background information and data to have the journal meet the standards of the Literature Selection Technical Review Committee (LSRTC) which reviews journal titles and assesses the quality of their contents. Why would the resident editors and faculty advisors wish to have *The University of Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Journal* become one of the 3,147 journals that are indexed? This process supports the theme that the journal will be devoted to novel clinical and scientific presentations. It legitimizes the entire process and will upgrade the material submitted for publication. The editors are to be congratulated for their efforts and vision.

I believe you will enjoy and learn from the broader scope of the eleventh edition of the journal.

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