

Letter from the Senior Editorial Advisor

The publication of the twelfth volume of *The University of Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Journal* reflects the many talents of the orthopaedic resident staff. Their ingenuity and creativity are reflected in every aspect of the *UPOJ*. The scientific content of the *Journal* has continued to expand over the last three issues. The current resident editors have not only maintained the creative aspects of their predecessors such as Current Controversies in Orthopaedic Surgery and contributions by non-orthopaedic members of the Penn Orthopaedic Institute, but they have also added their own innovations to the current issue of the *UPOJ*. In the creation of seven distinct sections of the *Journal* they have developed a forum for residents and faculty of Penn and also for residents from other academic institutions.

The socio-economic changes of healthcare in our society are having a profound effect upon the practice of medicine. The maturation of managed healthcare is creating an environment in which managed healthcare companies are finding it increasingly more difficult to provide care for the American public and yet make a profit. The Medicare Balanced Budget Bill of 1997 is having a significant impact upon reimbursement at academic healthcare institutions across the country. The movement of health assistance and Medicaid patients into managed Medicaid programs is also curtailing reimbursement to primarily those large inner city institutions that provide a disproportional quantity of the healthcare of our less fortunate citizens. The combination of these forces is creating a volatile environment that threatens education, research, and the practice of medicine in an academic healthcare center. The introduction of a section of the *Journal* devoted to the impact of the new healthcare policies

and economics is timely and an important aspect of a modern communication forum. The articles entitled "Physician Surplus and Its Remedies" by Bernstein and "Understanding the Impact of the Medicare Balanced Budget Act" by Shulkin are enlightening contributions.

The inclusion of the 1999 Gill Lecture by Sheldon Simon delivered at the Philadelphia Orthopaedic Society is another novel innovation. It is appropriate to include this lecture honoring Arthur Bruce Gill, M.D., the third chairman at Penn, as it has been supported by the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Sheldon's remarks concerning the management of the neuropathic foot reflect an innovative approach to a controversial subject.

While the development of the scientific aspects of *UPOJ* is important, the maturation of the organizational and financial aspects of the *Journal* is equally important in this era of "more for less." The current editorial resident staff had a vision to create a digital version of this and the previous two issues. With the placement of all three issues on the Developmental homepage, they have achieved their goal. Simultaneously, they have improved the entire process of publishing the *Journal*. They are to be congratulated for their enterprise and creativity.

Robert H. Fitzgerald, Jr., M.D.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert H. Fitzgerald, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'R' and 'F'.