

Editorial

Taking Some Time Out

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Life without celebrations is a long road without inns.

– Democritus

Among the keys to success in journal editing are the dedication and focus of the associate editors, guest editors and statistical consultants, and the willingness of reviewers to lend their time and intellectual capital to the peer review process. As editor, I can state unequivocally that the Journal's impact and influence have been heightened by the combined efforts of both groups. It cannot be stated enough that the time expended is significant; journal editing and reviewing reflect the work of individuals who have made a commitment to the discipline of heart failure, to the advancement of knowledge, to the Heart Failure Society of America and to the Journal, or some combination of all four. Every editor has at some point stated that "we can't do this without you" and as such the statement appears on its face to be a platitude. But in reality, the Journal's success is owed to our editors, consultants, reviewers, contributors, readers. . .even downloading a JCF paper has an impact. We rely on the associate editor who must synthesize a wide array of data and opinions about the data, on the statistical consultant who guides us by deconstructing the methods to evaluate the validity of the findings, and on the reviewer who takes the time to contribute knowledge about the topic at hand by offering suggestions, opinions and reflections that we use to decide whether to advance a paper for publication. We have also been known to read papers with our "Bill Roberts cap" securely on; while we may use Track Changes instead of a red pen, we would like to believe that our input, whether organizational, grammatical or contextual, further contributes to a collaborative process with authors.

Have we made mistakes over the last four years? Yes, we have. Occasionally we have been late to the decision-making process and on rare occasions, a caustic review gets by the editor's watchful eye. The peer review process is not

always pretty and while we aim to bat "1,000", we can whiff once in a while. At the same time, we would like to believe that we are proving Adlai Stevenson wrong. He infamously stated (tongue-in-cheek we hope) that an editor separates the wheat from the chaff and then prints the chaff. Rather, with our increasing impact factor, increasing volume of submissions and wide range of articles, we would like to believe that we are making progress and helping to turn the flagship publication of the HFSA into a must read.

As we enter our 5th year with the current issue, we also would like to specifically recognize and celebrate the contributions of our reviewers; we list those who contributed at least one review elsewhere in the Journal. Special mention must be made of our high volume reviewers, who step up on a regular basis and agree to help us manage the nearly 800 papers now submitted annually (Table). Their dedication to the Journal and the peer review process is outstanding; they need no "carrot" and ask for no reward. We are grateful for their hard work and selflessness. They and indeed all our reviewers may soon be able to claim CME credit, if we can resolve some logistical and financial roadblocks. Please stay tuned for that possibility. At the same time, we are always looking for new reviewers; with multiple prominent HF journals in the market place, the demands on prospective reviewers increase. At the same time, there is a skill set associated with writing a "good review" and we will soon enlist our second mentee, recruited from the Early Career Committee, who will join us and learn about the review and editorial process. Our first mentee, Dr. Esther Vorovich, has always been ready to learn and contribute, and will now join the JCF's Editorial Board; it is a delight to have her as part of the team.

We strive to make the Journal as relevant as possible. With the help of a remarkable slate of editors and statistical consultants, we are optimistic about the future. In the meantime, taking a moment to focus on our contributors (reviewers and authors alike) is a good use of the Editor's Page. Kudos to all!

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