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What's Old and Still on the Horizon History of the ACP - HAWAII

The Hawaii Chapter of the American College of Physicians received its Articles of Incorporation on December 23, 1984. According to Joy Christ of the national A.C.P. office, the Hawaii Chapter actually dates back to 1927 when A. N. Sinclair was its first Governor.¹

After Dr. Sinclair stepped down in 1931, there was a void for several years prior to Harry L. Arnold, Jr.'s service from 1937-1949. Senior readers of the Journal remember the name Harry L. Arnold, Jr. very well as Editor of the Hawaii Medical Journal. Following Harry in A.C.P. leadership were:

1949-58 Nils P. Larsen	1981-85 Robert A. Nordyke
1958-64 Hastings H. Walker	1985-89 Irwin J. Schatz
1964-70 Morton E. Berk	1989-93 Nadine C. Bruce
1970-73 John L. Bell	1993-97 Vincent S. Aoki
1973-77 Bernard W. D. Fong	1997-01 S. Y. Tan
1977-81 James L. Ball	2001-05 Patricia Blanchette

Reference

1. Christ, J. Personal Correspondence, 8/13/04

Journalism on the Slopes of Haleakala

Ten years ago, when Fred Reppun MD gave up the helm of the Journal, Harry L. Arnold Jr., Editor for more than 40 years, encouraged me to accept his position. Now, Inam Rahman, M.D., President of the Hawaii Medical Association, has invited me to continue to serve as your editor.

Because of my very busy practice on Oahu, my wife Ramsay sought and found an "upcountry" home where I could find more time to reflect and to write. As I sit on my lanai facing the West Maui mountains, I overlook the peaceful vistas of the Valley Isle with the ocean on both sides of the valley. Lanai, Molokai and Molokini. At this elevation, there are few distractions; our rooster awakens me and occasionally a cow finds its way onto our acreage. It's then that I realize that I too am out to pasture. Maui No Ka Oi!

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Journalism on the Slopes of Haleakala

This new schedule, half country/half city, gives me the opportunity to read, not just dermatology journals and books, but manuscripts submitted to the Journal, and the opportunity to work more with our Peer Review Panel on submitted manuscripts.

Larry Parish, MD, Editor of the International Journal of Dermatology, has asked me to serve on their Editorial Board. The present Editor of the International Journal of Dermatology, Larry E. Gibson, MD, suggested reading an article in the British Journal of Dermatology in July 2004 by Richard Smith, Editor of the BMJ. In the manuscript, *Traveling but never arriving: Reflections of a retiring Editor - 25 years of adventure, discovery and conserving*, he stated "we are still in the journal equivalent of the early days of film: the talkies have yet to appear, the sight being free to all has, I think, hugely increased the influence and usefulness of the Journal."¹ He goes on to discuss authorship stating, "authorship is another issue with which we see little progress. It long ago became clear that many studies included authors who had done little or nothing, and excluded people who had done a great deal of work."² Attempts to separate authors and non-authors have been based more on power than contribution. The arguments of contributor-ship rather than authorship seem to me unanswerable.³ But most Journals have stuck with authorship."¹

When Dr. Smith discusses his experience with the British Journal of Medicine, his words are apropos to our Journal:

"It took me many years to realize that I completely misunderstood what journals did. I imagined that doctors opened their BMJs on Friday mornings, read of some innovation, and used it on the next relevant patient. Many still seem to cling to this naive view of the function of journals. In fact, words on paper rarely lead directly to change."

"What journals do best is what the rest of the media do best: stir up, prompt debate, upset, probe, legitimize, and set agendas. They are good at telling readers what to think about, but not what to think, and theme issues may be particularly successful in putting important but neglected subjects to doctors. Increasingly, I wonder as well if there isn't something fundamentally misguided in sending ordinary clinicians, who are not scientists, piles of original papers that they mostly don't read, often aren't relevant to them, and they are not trained to appraise.⁴ If we were clearer about the purpose of journals, then we might redesign them completely."

References

1. Smith, R. *Traveling but never arriving: reflections of a retiring editor*. BMJ 2004; 329: 242-244.
2. Bhopal R et al. The vexed question of authorship: views of researchers in a British medical facility. BMJ 1997; 314: 1009-12.
3. Rennie D, Yank V, Emanuel L. When authorship fails: a proposal to make contributor accountable. JAMA 1997; 278: 579-85.
4. Waid DS. Bureaucracy of ethics applications. BMJ 2004; 328: 282-4.