

From the editors

News and comments

G. William Henry, Robert H. Anderson and Giancarlo Crupi

THIS ISSUE GOES TO PRESS WITH AN ECLECTIC GROUP of manuscripts which provide the reader with much to choose from. From an editorial stance, we are pleased with the diversity in topics and geographic origins represented.

Freda Gardner and G. D. Angelini discuss an important topic for those responsible for managing the care of children with congenital heart disease and their families, namely the psychological aspects of such patients. Their review provides valuable insights in a clinical area which has received inadequate attention. One cannot help but wonder how this important area will fare in the climate of health reform in the United States of America with the present emphasis on outcome as defined by morbidity and mortality. How narrowly will morbidity be defined? We invite you to respond to us with your thoughts regarding this area. We also invite you to submit manuscripts covering this or similar issues.

George Veasy takes a page from Paul Harvey and provides the rest of the story as it relates to diagnosing rheumatic fever. The editors would be most interested in the response from our readers regarding the insights and opinions presented by Dr. Veasy.

Giuseppe Pacileo and his colleagues discuss left ventricular mechanics in children who have undergone surgical repair of aortic coarctation in early infancy, using echocardiographic assessment. Ventricular diastolic function is less well understood by pediatric cardiologists. This paper makes a useful contribution to our understanding of the importance of preserving left ventricular diastolic function as a consequence of the timing of surgical intervention. Developmental aspects of myocardial response to increased afterload are also considered.

Finally, a second supplement is included in this issue which contains the abstracts presented at the *4th European Congress of Extracorporeal Life Support*. The Congress, organized by Marco Somaschini and his colleagues, was held in Bergamo in May and was well attended. The topics presented included neonatal, pe-

diatric and adult extracorporeal support, biocompatibility and anticoagulation, non-conventional ventilation and free communications in many areas of cardiopulmonary failure.

Our colleagues in Brazil contacted us recently to ask us to include an announcement in this issue regarding the *XV Brazilian Congress of Pediatric Cardiology*. The advertisement copy arrived after the journal had been printed, but Walter Hoffman, our ever tolerant printer in Hong Kong, found a way to splice these comments into this section. Fabio Sallum and his colleagues have organized the *XV Congresso Nacional de Cardiologia Pediatrica* in Brazil which will be held 01-03 December 1995 in Curitiba. In recent years, the Brazilian Congress of Pediatric Cardiology has been superb and well attended, and the program and faculty for the meeting in December is impressive. For more information, please contact Dr. Sallum (Children's Hospital, R. Dez. Motta, 1070 90250-060 Curitiba, Brazil; Fax. 55-41-222-4249). One of our editors has been invited to participate and we are looking forward to this opportunity to expand our cooperation with our Latin American colleagues.

Moving our attention to Asia, discussions have been underway with our colleagues in Beijing to expand the Chinese participation and support of *Cardiology in the Young* in China. We are pleased to report these efforts are going well, and a delegation representing *Cardiology in the Young* will be in Beijing in October to discuss these issues further. We are extremely pleased with the cooperation we have received from the Chinese Medical Association, the Ministry of Public Health, and the Cardiovascular Research Institute of Beijing Medical University, and we look forward to developing a productive relationship from extensive cooperation with our colleagues throughout China. Our Editorial Board will grow to reflect these changes (as well as the changes occurring in Japan as discussed below). We also welcome your comments and ideas, as we are convinced this area of the world will become an increasingly important contributor to our respective disciplines.

Finally, we are very pleased to announce a significant expansion of *Cardiology in the Young* in Japan. A formal announcement will be made at the *Tokyo Symposium of Pediatric Cardiology and Pediatric Cardiac Surgery* in late October. Through the efforts of Hiromi Kurosawa, our Asian Editor, *Cardiology in the Young* will open an editorial office in Jikei University. This office will coordinate the continued expansion of our activities in Japan and throughout Asia. We are excited about these events and anticipate the expansion of our editorial

presence in Japan will facilitate the participation of our colleagues throughout Asia in *Cardiology in the Young*. We hope to see you in Tokyo in October.

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