

## Publishing *International Psychogeriatrics* at the Turn of the Millennium

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In the 12 years of its existence, *International Psychogeriatrics* has never presented an editorial by its publisher. It seems fitting to write this editorial at this particular time because the year 2000 marks Springer's 50th anniversary in business. Bernhard Springer founded our publishing company in 1950, in New York. I became its owner and president after my husband's death in 1970.

Bernhard Springer established the firm in the "medical model" that he knew well from his family business in Berlin. His early medical (and veterinary) books included neurology—crowned by the publication of the prestigious *Transactions of the Neurological Society*. In the mid-1950s he published a series of highly successful early textbooks for nurses, as well as clinical volumes in psychology and psychiatry. Several of the pioneering authors became founders of the growing fields of gerontology and geriatrics. These early developments pointed the way that I followed when taking over the publishing house.

I would like you to know about my personal rapport with *International Psychogeriatrics* and my socio-intellectual commitment to it. My own academic background (as professor at City University of New York) focused on educational

developments in the sociopolitical context of European countries in the 1950s-60s. Thinking of demographic, economic, and psychosocial trends was familiar to me and helped me to develop a strong program in aging, ahead of most other publishers. Books in gerontology, rooted in psychology, and books in geriatrics, linked to medicine and nursing, were kept in balance. Important to our success was our close cooperation, and often friendship, with leaders of the major associations: the Gerontological Society of America, the American Geriatrics Society (AGS), and the American Society on Aging.

In the early 1980s I witnessed the origins of the International Psychogeriatric Association (IPA) and of our journal *International Psychogeriatrics*. Those were exciting days! I remember watching the founding editors in Chicago talking, debating, projecting, and juggling finances. At this early stage, a healthy portion of optimism and financial commitment were part of my contribution to the journal.

Years have passed. We are well organized by now; our journal has become an international success. All share in some credit for that—the several editors; the Board members; the administrative staff; and of course the Springer journals department staff.

Over the course of the journal's years, the authors have significantly contributed to the progress of geriatrics in its psychiatric dimension. From the emotional health of old people to the bottomless pit of Alzheimer's disease, psychogeriatric doctors, nurses, and social workers share responsibility for the "quality of life" of older people and their families. Supporting these complex tasks of research, writing, and clinical work by maintaining a forum for sharing thoughts, problems, and progress gives us the joy of doing meaningful work.

What about the future? Certainly health and mental wellness of the elderly will become an even greater concern; certainly research in these fields will increase; and certainly timely access to this research

will be essential. IPA and the publisher have already addressed the need for access by introducing ourselves to the audience on the worldwide web. For all volumes of the journal, past and present, readers can find the tables of contents and abstracts on-line for review, free of charge. Every issue may be purchased on-line and air-shipped to readers. Throughout the world, computer-literate researchers need only type the word "psychogeriatrics" into a search engine and they will be led to IPA and *International Psychogeriatrics*.

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