

Where-With-All?

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*The mind longs for what it has missed
(Animus quod perdidit optat)*

Petronius Arbitrator, Satyricon

Where have we been? This issue is six months late and I apologize to you and to those authors who patiently have awaited publication of their work. Publication of Volume 13 has been delayed due to the difficulties outlined by Steve Rottman, President of the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine, in his recent letter to subscribers. These difficulties now are in the past and I anticipate return to regular publication of PDM with this issue.

During 1997, the quality of the content of the Journal took a leap forward, and the format produced by Wisconsin Trails enhanced its appearance and readability. So far this year, several important milestones already have been reached by the Journal despite the delay in publication of the printed version of PDM:

- 1) With the help of a grant from the Laerdal Foundation for Acute Medicine (Stavanger, Norway) and the support of the Department of Medicine of the University of Wisconsin, PDM made its debut on the Internet. All of the Abstracts from Volume 12 along with links with their indexes and tables of content are contained in the PDM web site along with many other special features. Please visit the PDM Home Page (<http://pdm.medicine.wisc.edu>);
- 2) As evidenced, in part, by the recent review in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA, 03 June 1998), there is increasing recognition of the importance of PDM as a worldwide source of science and information not available elsewhere in the medical literature;
- 3) Several organizations have endorsed

PDM as their official journal (International Society of Disaster Medicine and the Nordic Society for Disaster Medicine including the Norwegian, Swedish, Danish, Finnish, and Icelandic Societies);

4) Cooperative agreements have been reached with the editors of other, non-English language, disaster and emergency medicine journals (French and Japanese) which will facilitate the ability to co-publish important materials from one journal into the respective language of the other and vice versa (parts of PDM will be published in Japanese and French journals, and PDM will publish translations of selected papers from these journals);

5) The Journal now is comprehensively indexed by the Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL) and HealthStar. It is being reconsidered for indexing by other National Library of Medicine and American Hospital Association services, and can be accessed readily for literature searches;

6) In the summary of the Bogata meeting relative to uses of the Internet in disaster circumstances you will see that it is published in both English and Spanish. Beginning with the next issue, with the support of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), abstracts will be translated into Spanish and published in a separate, new section of PDM;

7) The support of important members of the emergency medical services industry and those who support disaster activities has returned, and ads for their relevant products reappear beginning in this issue. It is important that we support them in every way possible, as they continue to support this publication;

8) The number and quality of manuscripts submitted for publication have increased steadily with works being

submitted from across the world; and 9) Changes in the manuscript review process defined by the Editorial Board during the 10th World Congress for Disaster and Emergency Medicine in Mainz, Germany, will facilitate the review of newly submitted manuscripts. These changes in process should provide the authors with a six-month turnaround time from receipt of manuscripts until publication.

The WADEM will continue publication of PDM. It will self-publish the Journal in an effort to minimize expenses incurred in the publication process. All issues of Volumes 13 and 14 will be published within the next 18 months. I appreciate the patience of the authors who have trusted that their important work will be published: it will be published with the greatest rapidity possible. The Journal does fill "an important niche", but we need your help. We need you to extend your commitment to the publication of PDM by sending your best work to PDM for publication and to actively recruit the materials that will allow us to produce a Journal that has the highest possible relevance to your practice. PDM only can be as good as the materials you provide.

Prehospital and Disaster Medicine remains active; its recovery now is brisk, and the Journal (both in the printed and Internet forms) is becoming the international vehicle promised. We can help you and you can help us. We are pleased to be back, and we are committed to providing you with the best research and information produced in our new and rapidly evolving disciplines.

When prodigals return, great things are done.

A. A. Dowdy, *The Siliad* (1873)