Passing of the Torch

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Digestive Diseases was first published by Karger publishers in 1983 under the title Survey of Digestive Diseases. In 1986, the name was officially changed to Digestive Diseases. In their first editorial, the founding editors Tom Chen, MD and Rowen Zetterman, MD defined the goals of the journal: 'Bridge the gap between the advances made in the academic setting and their clinical application.' During the first decade of the journal's life, the editors have done a remarkable job to accomplish this task. They deserve praise and recognition for making Digestive Diseases a fine clinical journal.

As of January 1994, I have become the chief editor and accepted the 'passing of the torch.' I will pursue with vigor the goal established by our founding editors. Our publishing focus will be devoted to 'state-of-

the-art' reviews and updates in the clinical and basic sciences. These reviews will be aimed at the gastroenterology trainee and the practicing clinician seeking the latest information. The manuscripts will provide indispensable and practical information for the daily evaluation and management of clinical problems in gastro-enterology and hepatology.

To accomplish our editorial goals, we have appointed an editorial board of worldwide renown and have invited manuscripts from prominent international scholars. To maintain the quality of our publications, all contributions will continue to be subjected to a rigorous peer review process. I invite our readers to send their papers to our editorial office and encourage them to provide me with suggestions that will improve the quality of our journal.

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We will start two new sections: 'Grand Rounds' and 'Clinical Images.' The 'Grand Rounds' section will deal with clinical challenges to sharpen diagnostic and therapeutic skills. The 'Clinical Images' section will deliver key teaching concepts with a patient, X-ray, CT, US, histopathological or endoscopic picture. I expect these sections to become a source of invaluable reference for our subscribers. Again, I urge our readers to be part of these exciting new sections by submitting their own contributions to our editorial office.

Digestive Diseases will also publish data from prominent national or international symposiums or meetings as periodic supplements. In addition, guest editors will be invited to contribute to update progress in a rapidly developing field.

As I receive 'the torch' as chief editor, I am proud and thankful to count with the talent of an outstanding editorial board. I recognize our major responsibility and goal: to excel in the quality and value of our publications. I accept this challenge with enthusiasm and remain confident that Digestive Diseases will be a major educational tool of international stature and a true landmark clinical journal.

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Editorial: Passing of the Torch