

AAAAI News Digest

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The self-report form will be available online until the 2010 Annual Meeting. For more information, e-mail cme@aaaai.org or contact the AAAAI Education team at (414) 272-6071.

Purchase the Virtual Annual Meeting

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To place your order, visit www.annualmeeting.aaaai.org. For more information, contact Amanda Buckley at abuckley@aaaai.org or (414) 272-6071.

Strategic PR Plan Raises Visibility

See the AAAAI's strategic public relations plan in action on page 5.

For help heightening the visibility of your practice and the role of the allergist, make sure to visit the Promoting your Practice area of the AAAAI Web site.

Attend the Practice Management Workshop

Registration and the course brochure are available online at www.aaaai.org. For more on the workshop, turn to page 14.

80 Years of the JACI: Advancing Research on Allergic Disease

In November 1929, the inaugural issue of *The Journal of Allergy* rolled off the presses and into the hands of allergist/immunologists. In 2009, that publication has evolved into *The Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology* (JACI), with a distribution of over 7,000 each month and the distinction of being the most cited and esteemed journal in the allergy/immunology specialty.

"The support of the Academy and the involvement of many of the field's thought leaders as former Editors and Editorial Board members have unquestionably aided the Journal's development over its 80-year history," said Editor-in-Chief Donald Y. M. Leung, MD, PhD, FAAAAI.

Since its debut in 1929, the publication has captured the evolution of the organization and the specialty. Here is a brief look back in time.

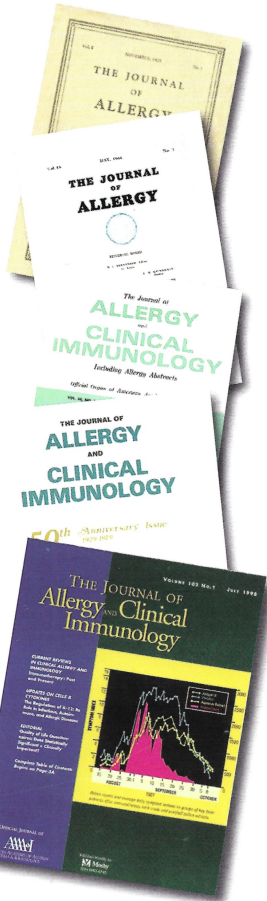
In the Beginning

The organization now known as the AAAAI was created from the merger of the Society for the Study of Asthma and Allied Conditions and the Association for the Study of Allergy in 1943.

The Society and the Association were separated by their geographical presence. The Society was based in the eastern United States, while the Association was based in the west.

In 1982, the name changed from the American Academy of Allergy (AAA) to the American Academy of Allergy & Immunology (AAAI). The current name, the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI) was adopted in 1995.

Before *The Journal of Allergy* came into existence, the Society had designated the *Journal of Immunology*, founded by Arthur F. Coca, MD, as its official organ in 1925. However, by



JACI, continued on p.6

1929, literature on the specialty was being featured in a variety of different publications. In addition, clinical allergy was gaining popularity and the need for a singular publication devoted to the subject was becoming apparent. This climate contributed to the establishment of *The Journal of Allergy*, led by the efforts of French K. Hansel, MD, and Harry L. Alexander, MD.

The translation of a German text brought Hansel together with C. V. Mosby of the C. V. Mosby Company. Alexander was also in contact with Mosby, as he was attempting to launch a journal and frequently consulted with Mosby. Both Hansel and Alexander spoke to him about creating a publication devoted to the allergy specialty and by 1929, Mosby had a strong interest in publishing it.

At the Fifth Annual Meeting of the Society, Alexander brought the idea of creating such a journal before the Executive Committee. Alexander also reported that Mosby had approached him about being Editor of this journal and having the Society adopt it as its official organ. The minutes from that meeting show that the Executive Committee accepted Mosby's offer under the following three conditions:

1. "No expense should be incurred by the Society.
2. There would be no obligation upon members of the Society to publish in the Journal unless they so desired.

3. There would be no obligation on the part of the Journal to accept articles [by members] if not desired [by the Editor]."

The First Issue

The cover of the first issue of *The Journal of Allergy* states that it was published bi-monthly and describes itself as the "official organ" of the Society and the Association. The Journal's inaugural Editorial Board consisted of six members representing both organizations, led by Editor Alexander and Associate Editor Warren T. Vaughan. The six, along with publisher Mosby, introduced the Journal "as a medium for the presentation of papers concerning the clinical aspects of specific hypersensitiveness in human beings," according to the editorial announcement featured at the beginning of the issue.

The issue itself had seven articles, two meeting reports (one for the Society and one for the Association) and selected abstracts. The article titles describe the salient topics at the time. These include: "The Relation of Bacterial Allergy to Scarlet Fever," "Clinical and Histopathologic Studies of the Nose and Sinuses in Allergy," "Cedar Hay Fever" and "The Grounds for an Etiologic Classification of the Phenomena of Specific Sensitiveness." In addition, several advertisements boasting "pollen extracts" for the treatment of hay fever are also featured in the pages, as well as ads for various medical books.

The Merger

On December 4, 1943, the American Academy of Allergy was officially established from the merger of the Society for the Study of Asthma and Allied Conditions and the Association for the Study of Allergy.

In the January 1944 issue of the Journal, an editorial announcement states, "As *The Journal of Allergy* enters its fifteenth year, it does so under new and auspicious circumstances. The two established national allergy societies which this publication represented have become one." And so it became the official publication of the new American Academy of Allergy.

With this announcement, the Journal began to evolve and, with the strength of a singular national allergy society behind it, would experience even more growth in the years to come.

The Expansion

One event in particular helped to expand the field of allergy and led to the exponential growth of the Journal. Research and training grants from the National Institutes of Health allowed the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to support the existence of allergy and clinical immunology programs at universities and medical centers.

JACI, continued on p.7

80 Years of Editorial Guidance

Over the past 80 years, from *The Journal of Allergy* to the JACI, the following individuals have diligently served as Editors:



Harry L. Alexander
(1929-1950)

Francis C. Lowell
(1957-1962)

Kenneth P. Matthews
(1968-1972)

Charles E. Reed
(1977-1983)

Burton Zweiman
(1988-1993)

Donald Y. M. Leung
(1998-present)

William B. Sherman
(1950-1956)

David W. Talmage
(1963-1967)

Roy Patterson
(1973-1977)

Elliott Middleton
(1983-1988)

Philip S. Norman
(1993-1998)

As a result, the specialty began attracting a greater number of people, which led to more research being done by investigators. In 1966, the increasing flow of submitted manuscripts led to the decision to make the Journal monthly instead of bi-monthly.

The next big change came in 1971 when the Journal officially changed its name to *The Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology* (JACI). The July 1971 issue is the first that bears this new name and includes an editorial explaining the change. Editor Kenneth P. Matthews, MD, states that it was a careful decision discussed over many years among the organization's leadership. He goes on to discuss that the change came about as a result of the limited way the term 'allergy' is perceived outside the field.

Matthews writes, "To a major extent, the new name simply reflects more adequately the existing broad scope of the Journal's contents in recent years, but it is hoped that the change will direct to the Journal the attention and interest of more contributors and readers whose major interests lie outside the area encompassed by a narrow definition of allergy."

When looking at the July 1971 issue, the increased prominence of advertising is immediately noticed, with color ads on two-page spreads. However, it wasn't until 1998 that color and graphics appeared on the cover.

Article titles are a key indication of how far the specialty had come since 1929. They include: "Immunologic characterization of serum factors responsible for cold urticaria," "Separation of a material in streptokinase-streptodornase which induces delayed skin reaction" and "Lymphocyte cultures and skin allograft survival in patients with South American blastomycosis."

Celebrating 50 Years

The November 1979 issue was devoted to the JACI's 50-year anniversary. In a special piece, Editor Charles E. Reed, MD, comments, "Not only should we expect more original research articles, but we have grown to the point where we need special reviews summarizing a field and bringing the excitement of laboratory discoveries to clinicians' attention in an understandable way so that these discoveries can be promptly exploited for our patients' benefit."

The bulk of the 50-year anniversary issue was devoted to "The American Academy of Allergy: An

historical review," written by Sheldon G. Cohen, MD, FAAAAI. In 1968, during the celebration of the American Academy of Allergy's 25-year anniversary, the Executive Committee asked Cohen to write a history of the organization, the result of which appears in this issue.

Cohen, who served as AAAAI Historian from 1963 to 1969, was the first to write such a comprehensive history.

Moving Forward

While much has changed over the course of 80 years, the JACI remains true to its original purpose: to continue the tradition of publishing the very latest and best research in the specialty.

Today, in addition to Leung and Deputy Editor Stanley J. Szeffler, MD, FAAAAI, there are 14 Associate Editors, a 24-member Editorial Board, a 10-member Advisory Board, as well as hundreds of reviewers and authors who are involved in the production of the Journal.

"The JACI helps us learn about new fields of science, key discoveries and clinical breakthroughs. Drs. Leung and Szeffler, the Editorial Board and the many reviewers and authors have made the JACI a truly

outstanding, 'must read' publication, for which they earn our sincere admiration and respect," said AAAAI President Paul A. Greenberger, MD, FAAAAI.

Looking ahead, Leung, who has served as Editor-in-Chief since 1998, sees lasting success for the JACI.

"We'll continue to be the leading journal in our field, publishing cutting-edge research in clinical laboratory science of interest to a wide audience of researchers and physicians," he said. "Further, the Journal will be expanding to use new forms of electronic communication that make information available more rapidly and increase understanding."

"The field has moved beyond simple description to an understanding of the mechanisms involved in allergic disease. We're now seeing a marked increase in the speed with which discoveries move from the lab bench to the bedside," added Leung. "The JACI has provided scientists with a tool for disseminating and acquiring knowledge about all of these new discoveries."

JACI Named Among the 100 Most Influential Journals of the Past Century

The JACI was identified as one of the most influential journals in the past 100 years by the BioMedical & Life Sciences Division of the Special Libraries Association (SLA).

As part of the SLA's centennial celebration, a poll designed and administered by a panel of nine international expert librarians in biological and clinical sciences asked its members to vote on the 100 most influential journals in biology or medicine of the last century.

The JACI competed in a five-journal category with similar publications in the field of allergy/immunology and received more than twice as many votes as the other four competitors combined.

