

Changing of the Guard

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Editor-in-Chief

There is an expectation, I'm sure, that a change in the editorial staff of a journal inevitably means a change in the journal itself. I have to stress that you won't see huge differences in this issue, although I don't want to disappoint those adventuresome folk who live for change. The layout and overall appearance of the *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Canada (JOGC)* have been slightly modified to produce a softer, more user-friendly look. Draw your own conclusions about the significance of this. Nevertheless, no substantive changes have been made, in view of the adage: if it ain't broke, don't switch horses, or something like that. Other changes will come, in time.

My first action as the incoming Editor-in-Chief of the *JOGC* is to express my admiration of, and gratitude to, my predecessor. Surveys tell us that you, the reader, spend a considerable amount of your valuable time reading each issue. That fact is a testament to the work Jeff Nisker has done to make the *JOGC* a must-read journal; the new editorial team and I will do whatever we can to enhance its value to readers. Jeff has been responsible for making this journal a publication of international standing, applying editorial and ethical standards that resulted in its listing in *Index Medicus* and that continue to raise its value to Canadian physicians.

As his successor, I'm well aware of the personal effort Jeff has put into each issue—including this one. He and his editorial staff have done a wonderful job.

The other change for the *JOGC* is the publisher. We are pleased to announce that, as of this issue, the Canadian

Psychiatric Association will be publishing the *JOGC*. The simultaneous change in both Editor-in-Chief and publisher has resulted in the development by the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC) of a new model for the production of its flagship publication. So far, the process has been remarkably smooth and productive, and I am very grateful to the SOGC's executive office (in particular, to Vyta Senikas, the Associate Executive Vice-President) for the way in which the necessary changes have been implemented. They, too, have done a wonderful job.

With the housekeeping almost done, we are looking to keep the *Journal* on its upward trajectory. Authors submitting articles for publication in the areas of obstetrics and gynaecology, reproductive health, women's health, and fertility have over 100 indexed specialty journals from which to choose, and it is my obvious wish that we make the *JOGC* a desirable target for publication. It will be important for the *JOGC*, as a new player in the indexed field, to develop an identity that will make it a preferred forum for an author's hard work. The corollary of this is that the *JOGC* should also undertake to publish articles that have character, in addition to scientific merit. Watch this space—we're planning to do just that. At the same time, we will not jeopardize the *JOGC*'s current strengths, including the publication of Practice Guidelines. We want to produce a journal with a distinctly Canadian flavour, but not necessarily maple syrup.

I hope that you will continue to read and enjoy our journal—and will want to contribute.