

CUTIS® at 35

CUTIS® was the first medical journal written by specialists, but aimed to both specialists and generalists. Articles are received mainly from practicing and teaching dermatologists. The idea was and is to contribute to the overall quality of dermatologic care at home and abroad for the broadest spectrum of patients by a broad spectrum of interested physicians.

The late Eugene F. Traub, MD, was the first editor, with myself as his associate, charged with the day to day composition of the journal. Gene was a unique individual, whose proudest accomplishment was winning the lightweight Intercollegiate Wrestling Championship as a junior at his beloved University of Michigan. Another was eradicating a gonorrhea epidemic among American Marines during World War I. Gene, the Medical Officer, confronted the native guide who was also the procurer, gave him a bullet from his 45 revolver, and announced that the next active case of venereal disease would result in the use of the bullet, as he placed his finger on the guide's forehead. The epidemic ended immediately.

Gene became a very successful dermatologist, a professor in five different medical schools, and the very first to distinguish between nevi, naming and emphasizing the importance of the junction nevus and its possible change to malignant melanoma.

Gene had a theory that too many medical articles were so poorly written that much useful information was lost. We both agreed that we should be able to read a well-written article to an untrained, but intelligent person, and note that they comprehended the theme of the article. We felt that the busy clinician simply did not have either the time or energy to digest exhaustive scientific data. We hoped that with the aid of a truly outstanding Editorial Board and a very critical editorial eye, we could present useful and practical clinical information to doctors who actually treat patients.

Thirty-five years have passed. How well we have achieved these goals only you can say and we hope you will. We truly cherish letters expressing your thoughts on what we have done, what we should have done, and what we should do in the future. We cherish your thoughts on patient care and clinical experiences, good and bad.

Grass roots support from dermatologists and generalists have made CUTIS® possible. Advertisers are acutely aware of how well a journal is accepted. We hope to be around for another 35 years—maybe more! In fact, we hope there will be dedicated physicians in the next decades and not merely skilled technicians supervised by Health Maintenance Organizations, which in turn are carefully controlled and supervised by all knowing government agencies.

Thank you again and we hope to hear from you.

John T. McCarthy, MD
Editor-in-Chief