

Editorial

What an exciting year it has been for the audiology profession! We were well-represented at the FDA hearings on Hearing Aid Regulations by members of the Audiology Coalition. Thanks to the unwavering efforts of the Academy's President, Sharon A. Lesner, the Academy of Rehabilitative Audiology played a vital role in shaping the future of hearing aid delivery regulations. The needs of consumers with hearing impairment, as well as our own professional needs for recognition and autonomy within the hearing care delivery system, have now been cogently presented to the FDA Panel and to the public at large. The year also saw the adoption of LC 44-93 by ASHA's Legislative Council. The Legislative Council

Supported the Doctor of Audiology (AuD) as the entry-level credential for the practice of audiology, and recommended that the Standards Council change the requirement for the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Audiology (CCC-A) from a master's degree to the professional doctorate, with a goal of implementing revised standards for the CCC-A by the end of 2002.

And finally, President Clinton's plan to reform health care was introduced. These are indeed challenging times, and the membership's approval of the Executive Committee's Strategic Plan ensures continued visibility of the Academy of Rehabilitative Audiology within the hearing care system.

The Academy has recently published its second monograph, *Research in Audiological Rehabilitation: Current Trends and Future Directions*, edited by J.-P. Gagné and Nancy Tye-Murray. The monograph was produced during Don Sims' tenure as editor of the *Journal of the Academy of Rehabilitative Audiology*, and is an accomplishment for which he and the monograph editors should be applauded.

Readers will note a new section in the *Journal* entitled "Grand Rounds." This section will be devoted to case study reports in any of the various areas of audiological rehabilitation. It is my hope that these case reports will be relevant to the needs of practitioners who read *JARA* and will stimulate an exchange of ideas about interesting, perhaps challenging cases.

My sincere appreciation is offered to the superb editorial reviewers who were involved with this issue of the *Journal*. Their discerning appraisal of manuscripts and timely, detailed reviews were of substantial benefit to me, as a new editor, and to the authors who submitted works. And with regret, we bid farewell to Hugh Beykirch in his role as ARA Business Manager. He has been involved in all of the publication aspects of the Academy for the past 14 years, and will be sorely missed.

In closing, I would like to invite readers of the *Journal* to submit manuscripts that may be of interest to the Academy. Given the challenging times in which we find ourselves, quality articles regarding treatment efficacy would be of particular interest. And because the pediatric area was not represented in this year's submissions, I extend a special invitation to submit manuscripts to those readers who work primarily with children who have hearing impairment.

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Editor